A TRUE NARRATIVE OF SOM Remarkable Proceedings

Concerning the Ships *Samſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*, and ſeveral other Prize-ſhips depending in the *High Court of Admiraltie*: moſt humbly preſented to the PARLAMENT of the *Common-wealth* of ENGLAND, and to the Right Honorable the COUNCIL of STATE by Autoritie of PARLAMENT, and to the Honorable the *Council of Officers*, of his Excellencie the LORD GENERAL.

By THO. VIOLET of *London*, Gold-ſmith.

Who moſt humbly deſire's them to take the ſame into their due Conſideration, it beeing for the ſecuritie and ſafetie of the Nation.

UMI

TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE

Major General HARRISON,

Major General DESBOROW,

Collonel PHILIP JONES, *and*

Collonel BENNET;

All of the Right Honorable the Council of State.

RIGHT HONORABLE!

WHen God, by his Providence, had dissolved the late Parlament and Council of State, the 20 of *April*, 1653; and most of those Honorable Members of the Council, and Parlament (to whom I made formerly my humble Addresses in the behalf of the State, against several Prize-ships and Silver, depending the 20 *December*, 1652, in the Court of Admiraltie) ceasing from their publick employments, and reduced into the condition of private persons; It pleased

God to put it into my heart, to make my addreſſes to Col. *Weeton*, and Lievtenant Col. *Joice*, whom I had obſerved in all their actions to bee publick ſpirited men, and ſuch as daily ſought the honor and welfare of the Common-wealth.

When I had acquainted them with my buſineſs, and how far I had proceeded in the Court of Admiraltie, and the preſent condition and poſture of the Common-wealth's Silver-priſes, and other affairs in that Court: They were pleaſed, when they underſtood my deſires, freely to preſent the ſtate of this weightie affair unto your Honors, deſiring your care of the buſineſs, even ſo far as your Honors ſaw it did conduce to the profit, ſafetie, and honor of the Common-wealth: thereupon I made my humble addreſſes to your Honors; Major General *Harriſon* beeing pleaſed to give mee thanks for my pains and care I had taken about the ſtaying the Prize-Silver and Ships; and Collonel *Bennet* and Col. *Jones* ſending for mee, upon the Lievtenant of the Tower's information to them about mee, They deſired mee to give them informations for the carrying on the buſineſs of the Silver Prizes, and that I ſhould ſet down ſeveral rules for the managing the Coining

of the ſilver for the State's profit, and for keeping an account of all the particular parcels, which I did, and delivered it to Col. *Jones*, and Col. *Bennet*.

Major General *Desborow* procured mee a new Warrant from the Council of State; theſe great favors of your Honors, for giving mee encouragement to proceed in this buſineſs of the Prize-ſhips and Silver, I humbly conceiv, was onely in relation to the ſervice and proſperitie of the Common-wealth, and your love to Juſtice, that every one ſhould have his right.

May it pleaſ your Honors! The Court of Admiraltie, in time of VVar, is like a private Poſtern to a ſtrong Caſtle that is beſieged; the paſſage is narrow, you can com in but one by one; but if the Garriſon neglect to put a Sentinel at that door, that little Poſtern ſhall, in ſhort time, through the vigilancie of the Adverſaries, let in ſo many enemies, that the Caſtle will bee taken.

Your Court of Admiraltie is a dangerous Back-door of the Common-wealth, if the State watch not carefully, to ſee what goe's, and to have a good account of what Prizes com in, either for the State, or for private men of VVar.

May it pleaſ your Honors! there is a great

a great deal of difference between the judgment of any Court of Juſtice in *Weſtminſter*, which are between man and man, and the Judgments and Acts of a Court of Admiraltie for maritime cauſes; for if an error in judgment, or any undue practices in the proceedings of the Chancerie, Upper-Beuch, Common-Pleas, and Checquer doth fall out; if it bee for the State, the Common-wealth may have a review, and trie their Title again: and the like it is between partie and partie, if they pleaſ: the Lands remain, the people are here to give a reſponſ to any ſuch actions. But your Court of Admiraltie hath ſuch a Poſtern door, called, the *Sea*, that *an error in judgment there, is a damage irreparable*, in this conjuncture of time; for the Ships and Merchandize may bee, and have been, in your enemie's power, to bee imploied againſt you in 40 hours after, as in caſe of ſeveral Ships diſcharged the Court of Admiraltie.

This *Poſtern* of your *Court of Admiraltie* was made ſo wide, by the induſtrie of ſeveral Merchants: and no doubt but it was by means of monie, that will cut through the *Pirenean* mountains, that twelv Ships paſſed out of the Court of Admiraltie

raltie at one time, the 17 of *November*, 1652; and ſeven Ships the 19 *Nov.* and five the 16 *Dec.* 1652. & 4 Ships 18 *Dec.* 1652: quick judgments in ſuch weightie buſineſſes; whereas the ſafetie of the Common-wealth, and every particular perſon, was concerned to have every Prize-ſhip ſtrictly examined before their Diſcharge; and this was don after they were brought as Prize, at a vaſt charge of your Fleet and loſs of blood; *a ſad thing to think*, that the State's buſineſs ſhould bee ſo managed.

May it pleaſ your Honors! about the 16 *December*, 1652, ſeventeen Ships were to bee diſcharged by the Court of Admiraltie, conteining 3400 Tuns; all laden with rich Commodities, and ſilver, had not I com into the Court of Admiraltie, and proteſted againſt the Deliverie of them: as appear's on Record in the ſaid Court; for my doing thereof I had a verbal VVarrant from the Committee of Forreign Affairs. If you will bee pleaſed to enquire what became of many of theſe Ships ſo diſcharged, this Narrative following will acquaint you: Som of them went to *Holland*, Captain *Biſhop*'s Letters from *Holland* will tell you the ſame of many of theſe Ships.

May it pleaſ your Honors! The Court

of Admiraltie was, about *Chriſt-tide* laſt, ruled by three men, of different affections: *One*, that knew much of the Law, and the practice of that Court, which hee did daily ſhew openly; but it was in that waie of bitterneſs againſt the State's Intereſt in their ſeveral Prizes, that no Counſel at the Bar ſaid half ſo much for their Clients, as hee, beeing a Judg, declared againſt the Common-wealth's Title about ſom of the Prizes, and Silver. The *Other* juſt, and would have been glad to have don the Common-wealth's buſineſs, but that hee was not grounded in the Proceeding of that Court. A *Third* grown ſuddenly rich, by the common rule that all Judges that grow ſuddenly rich, muſt walk by.

May it pleaſ your Honors! When I was firſt commanded by the Council of State to attend this buſineſs, about the Prize-ſilver, I ſaw ſo much in theſe perſons & their practice, and ſom of the Proctors of that Court, at the firſt entrance into the Court about this buſineſs of my Proteſt, that I was ſtartled and troubled to conſider, what a buſineſs I had undertaken to the Committee of Forreign Affairs.

But I put on a Reſolution, by God's Aſſiſtance

ſtance, not to bee worded out of this buſineſs, but to wade through it; for that the ſafetie of the whole Nation was at the Stake, in that conjuncture of time, the *Hollanders* beeing at that time in the *Downs*. And to terrifie mee, and to deter mee from proceeding to do you this ſervice; when I ſeriouſly conſidered of the buſineſs, I had *firſt* the Merchants ready to load mee with actions, if I could not have proved my Allegations. *Secondly* I had publick Miniſters, that would have taken away my life as an Incendiarie, if I could not have proved, there was Silver belonging to the *Hollanders*, in the Ships, *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*, which I ſtaied. And *thirdly*, had theſe Prizes been cleared, I had many of the Council of State would have ſent mee back to my Old Lodging in the Tower. *Fourthly* I had an enraged companie of Doctors and Proctors, and ſuch things, whoſe Trade I diſcovered, and was reſolved, by God's aſsiſtance, to ſpoil for the time to com; and indeed I had ſo many obſtacles to conteſt with, as would have ſtartled a thouſand men.

Againſt this, I ſet the *Safetie of the Nation*, and *reſtoring mee to my Eſtate*: and that I ſhould convince mine enemies that they had

had don ill in oppreſsing mee, when they ſee both what I could and would venture to do for my Countrie's ſervice; and the world ſhould ſee, that I would not fear the face of any to unmask theſe frauds: And I hope the Juſtice and VViſdom of Parlament, will make ſtrict laws and rules for the future, to prevent ſuch abuſes as have been notoriouſly practiſed by many in that Court; and that the State will keep good Sentinels and watchmen for the future, both to examine all papers, Bills of Lading, and the Regiſters and all the Examiners, and other proceedings in that Court.

It is not one or two of the ableſt men that can bee found in this Nation can do this buſineſs in the Admiraltie duly as it ſhould bee don: If I bee commanded, and have a moderate allowance, I will give the State a good account for the time to com.

And at this preſent time the Prizes are many, and ſomtimes a man may light on a Letter, a Paper, or ſheet of Account, that may bee worth to the State a hundred thouſand pounds: and there are ſecrets in the expounding of Merchant's Letters, (that are not eaſily diſcovered) Accounts, and Bills of Lading, Purſer's Books;

Books; and will take up ſeveral knowing men's time to underſtand: a ſtrict eie will improve the State's Intereſt much; and if the State will have this buſineſs well don, it muſt bee well paid for; for ſmall fees and penſions, where great truſts are, make's the Divel ſuggeſt invitations to take Bribes; and where a man muſt laie out two or three hundred pounds, or more, for his intelligence, boat-hire, and meſſengers, (and without this your buſineſs cannot bee well don) and if your Officer ſhall not have much more a year from the State for his yearly Fees in this buſineſs; this, I believ, hath made ſom to take up the temptation, and to make them finde out waies to help themſelvs, ſeeing the State will not paie them well for their pains, getting more in an hour by delivering a paper, or concealing it, than the State will allow them for ſeven years Salarie. If I would have driven this Trade to have betraied my truſt, I needed not have asked the State a pennie: I could have had my *eleven thouſand pound*, without Petitioning for it. I have good reaſon to believ this is, and hath been acted by ſom: I would wiſh to mend it for the future, leaſt this fire burſt out, and conſume them before

they bee aware of it : I have given ſom notice of it, if God give them grace to prevent it for the future ; for elſ at one time or other it will burſt out. If I have proof of it, I ſhall not ſpare him or them, when I am emploied by the State.

May it pleaſ your Honors ! I diſcovered the frauds of the Merchants, and others, in laboring to deceiv the State of their Prize-ſilver. But it was my Lord *Bradſhaw*, who, by his power, intereſt, and influence in the late Council of State, and his profound experience and judgment that cauſed the *imbargo* of the Silver to bee made : and what benefit and Treaſure doth com into the Common-wealth by the Silver-prizes. The Common-wealth, I humbly ſay, ow's the primarie Remembrance thereof to his judgment and vigilancie in this weightie buſineſs : For when I brought him firſt my Papers, thoſe of the 8th *December*, 1652. And after other Papers, hee preſently upon his diligent reading of them, found out the fraud, as to his particular judgment, and asked mee many other Queſtions then I had writen ; which ſatisfied him, and that made his Honor preſs ſo hard in this buſineſs againſt thoſe that oppoſed mee at the

the Council of State for my proſecution thereof; and to ſee that I ſhould not bee oppreſſed for doing the State this ſervice.

For at one time in the Council of State, it was at a ſtanding-water, whether I ſhould ſhoot Bridg, and ſo go back to the Tower, where I had been formerly laid up, by the power of malitious and ſubtil men, who made many of the late Parlament-men their inſtruments to keep mee in the Tower, upon pretence that I was a malignant, that ſo I ſhould not diſcover the neſt of Tranſporters of Gold and Silver; which I then was Ordered by the Parlament to do: and there is about twentie Orders of Parlament and Committees, for the bringing in the Act for the diſcoverie of the ſame, and the Act twice read in the late Parlament; and an Order for the finiſhing the Act againſt the Tranſporters of Gold, about 14 *April* laſt, was appointed in the Parlament.

May it pleaſ your Honors! my Lord *Bradſhaw* told mee, about *Chriſt-tide* laſt, before *Tho. Weſtroop* Eſquire, that there was ſom of the Council would, if they could, hang mee for ſtaying this Silver; which doing of mine, as hee conceived,

was

was a great and good ſervice to the Common-wealth; but to the uttermoſt of his power hee would ſee they ſhould not oppreſs mee: So that the State ow's his Lordſhip for that benefit they receiv by the Prize-ſilver, and I ow my libertie to his juſtice and goodneſs, that would engage himſelf in this buſineſs, to ſee I ſhould not bee oppreſſed for my doing this ſervice for the Common-wealth. I humbly wiſh, for the ſafetie of the Common-wealth, wee had more States-men of his profound judgment, vigilancie and courage.

The God of heaven proſper your Honors in all you take in hand; that ſo you may bee a bleſsing to this Nation in general; that as God hath choſen you from thouſands of your Brethren to do mightie things, and wonderful in the eies of this Generation, both at home and abroad; ſo hee would out of his infinite mercies keep your hearts upright, that no worldly proſperitie make you forget God's infinite mercies to you and yours; but that you may, all the daies of your life remember your deliverances in the daies of battle, when you jeoparded your lives for the freedom of this Nation: no doubt God heard

heard your vows, and exſpect's your performances for the good of this Nation.

May it pleaſ your Honors! This Narrative I humbly preſent you, is the unmasking of a cunning and dangerous plot againſt the Parlament, tending to the ruine and deſtruction of every particular Member of this Nation.

When I was firſt engaged in making my diſcoverie, I met with many Waſps that did ſting mee, and venemous Adders; but by the good guidance of God, the State hath plucked out ſom of their teeth; others will ſtorm to ſee theſe Truths diſcovered and laid open to your Honors. I am a moſt humble ſuiter to the Parlament and your Honors for your protection and countenance in the doing this ſervice to the Nation.

God bleſs and proſper all the counſels and undertakings of Your Honors, and every particular Member of this preſent Parlament; that no force or combination of forreign or home-born Traitors may undermine them; that they beeing delivered from their enemies both at home and abroad, may never forget God's great mercies, that they may bee nurſing fathers of this Nation, that they may bee tender

and merciful to the poor and diſtreſſed, that they bee builders up of our breaches, and that they carefully cheriſh Arts and Manufactures for the ſetting all the poor of this Nation a Work, that all the bleſſings of this life may bee beſtowed on them. And as God hath raiſed them above their brethren, ſo that hee would bee pleaſed to raiſ them all to reign with his Son for ever; it beeing that which is promiſed thoſe that rule well here, ſhall reign with him eternally in the heavens: and this ſhall bee the praier of

Your Honor's humble ſervant

Aug. 3. 1653.

Tho. Violet.

A True

NARRATIVE

Of ſom remarkable-Procedings concerning the ſhips *Samſon*, *Salvadore* and *George*, and ſeverall other Prize-ſhips, depending in the *Admiralty*; humbly preſented to the *Parliament* of the *Common-wealth* of *England*, and *Councell* of *State*, and the *Councell* of *Officers* of his *Excellency* the Lord GENERALL.

By THO. VIOLET of *London Gold-Smith.*

Humbly deſiring them to take the ſame into their Conſideration, it being of very great concernment to the ſecurity of this Nation.

And further hee humbly refers himſelfe to his *Papers*, *Petitions* and *Letters*, delivered to ſeverall Members of the *Councell* of *State*; wherein is diſcovered many Deſignes of Merchants and others, upon fraudulent pretences, to have defeated the *Common-wealth* of all the Silver now coyning in the Tower, beeing neere foure hundred thouſand pounds: Alſo an Order of the *Councell* of *State*, for removing ſeverall obſtructions in the *Mint*; And ſeverall Petitions and Proceedings thereupon, by order of the aboveſaid *Committee*: All which are humbly preſented to your Honors, and to all true lovers of their Countrey, who ſhall Reade and take notice of the ſame.

LONDON,
Printed in the yeere of our Lord God. 1653.

TO THE PARLIAMENT of the Commonwealth of ENGLAND.

The humble Petition of THO. VIOLET

Sheweth,

THat your Petitioner, in December laſt, finding the *Common-wealth* daily deceived in ſeverall Prizes that had beene unduly diſcharged in the Court of *Admiraltie*, and elſe where ſince Auguſt laſt, to the value of many hundred thouſand pounds, which frauds, if continued, had proved highly prejudiciall to the *Common-wealth*, by enabling the Dutch in their miſchievous practiſes to circumvent and eclipſe the glory of this Nation, and all this conſtantly acted by ſome Merchants, and others, by compliance with ſome perſons in truſt in the *Admiraltie*.

For prevention thereof for the future, your Petitioner did about the eighth of December laſt, deliver in writing unto the Lord *Bradſhawe* a Paper, diſcovering that at that preſent time, a practiſe and combination was ſet on foote and acted againſt the *State*, by ſeverall Merchants, and others, who at that time (combining with ſome publique miniſters of forraigne Princes, did endeavor and plot to put a blind on the *Parliament* and *Councell* of *State*, and having the connivance and aſsiſtance of ſome perſons in power and truſt for the *Common-wealth* and *Admiraltie*, contrived by fraud, falſe pretences and claimes, to get cleered out of the *Admiraltie*, ſeverall ſhips taken as

prize, but moſt eſpicially three rich Ships, *viz.* the *Sampſon*, the *George*, and the *Salvador*, in which ſhips your Petitioner had certaine intelligence there was many hundred thouſand pounds of Silver, and Merchandize for the accompt of ſeverall people in *Amſterdam*, *Dort*, and other places of the *united-Provinces* (your Petitioner having beene imployed by the late King and his Councell, for making known many ſecret practiſes of the like nature unto them) your Petitioner out of his affection to the proſperitie of this *Common-wealth*, did undertake to the Lord *Bradſhawe* to unmaske theſe frauds.

In purſuance whereof, your Petitioner knowing how much it did concerne this *Common-wealth* to have theſe abuſes diſcovered and made known, hee delivered ſeverall Papers unto ſeverall Members of the late *Councell* of *State*, and to Doctor *Walker* in December and January laſt, which did manifeſt by what waies and practiſes theſe abuſes were daily committed, which ſervice was ſo acceptable to many of the *Councell* of *State*, that your Petitioner had an aſſurance from many of them, in the behalf of the *Commonwealth*, that if your Petitioner could intitle the *State* to the Silver in the aforeſaid ſhips, and make it out by ſufficient proofe; then he ſhould have all his Eſtate both reall and perſonall reſtored unto him, which is under ſequeſtration upon malicious and untrue information, or the full value thereof, which amounted unto the ſome of eleven thouſand pounds, to bee paid unto your Petitioner out of the Silver which your Petitioner ſhould gaine to the *Commonwealth*, out of the aforeſaid prize-ſhips, which by your Petitioners painfull endeavors, and to his great and vaſt expence was then accordingly ſtayed, and proofe made to entitle the *State* to all the Silver which is now coyning in the Tower.

Notwithſtanding the ſtrong combinations and deſignes

ſignes of ſome in the Court of *Admiraltie*, and ſome other, great ones in power, to defraud the *Common-wealth*, as was intimated by Maſter *James Stanieres* letter, and in truth your Petitioner hath run as great hazard of being ruined both in his eſtate and perſon, for his proteſting in the behalfe of the *Commonwealth*, againſt the diſcharge of theſe ſhips and Silver, which had then, without your Petitioners proteſt in Court, beene all diſcharged, and at that time the Dutch had ſuch a party, even in the *Councel* of *State*, that by ſom of them your petitioner was diſcouraged to proceed in this buſines, by which means the merchants were encouraged to claime, as is well known to many hundreds of Merchants in *London*, inſomuch as your petitioner was enforced, in the face of the Court to charge ten ſeverall Merchants, who were then all in the Court of *Admiraltie*, for fraudulent practiſes, in laboring to diſcharge the ſaid Ships; and your petitioner did then declare to the Judges in the Court of *Admiraltie*, that if they did diſcharge the ſaid Ships and Silver, upon any pretence of any Merchants or other perſons whomſoever, before your petitioners witneſſes were examined, they did not Judge, but give away the *Common-wealths* Treaſure, and that your petitioner did appeale to the *Parliament* againſt their proceedings to diſcharge the Silver; which did ſo exaſperate the Judges in the *Admiraltie*, that they complained to the *Councell* of *State* againſt your petitioner, for endeavoring to ſtay the Silver and ſaid ſhips, and upon full examination of the buſineſſe before the Committee of forraigne-affaires, theſe ſhips were notwithſtanding ordered to be ſtaid, and your petitioner ordered to proſecute with all expedition and vigilance, in the behalfe of the *Common-wealth*,, for entitling the *State* to it, which he hath done accordingly. Your Petitioner therefore humbly prayes your Honors to bee pleaſed to conſider the great-

neſſe of your petitioners ſervice, in ſtaying the Treaſure in December laſt, and diſcovering the frauds of ſome in the *Admiraltie*, at ſuch time when the Hollander was domaniering in the *Downes*, and how much it did weaken them and diſappoint their occaſions, and what an advantage it is to the *Commonwealth* to have the *State* accomodated with neere foure hundred thouſand pounds of the enemies Treaſure, in this conjuncture of time, for your petitioners doing thereof hee hath contracted the malice of many hundred Merchants.

In conſideration of all which Services, your Petitioner humbly prayes his Sequeſtration may bee diſcharged, and his eſtate both reall and perſonall reſtored unto him, or the true value thereof paid him, as was promiſed your Petitioner upon his undertaking this buſineſſe, or that your Honors would take ſuch Order for your Petitioners reliefe in the Premiſes as by your grave Wiſedomes ſhall bee thought agreeable to Juſtice.

And, as in duty bound, your Petitioner ſhall pray, &c.

A Copie of a Paper preſented the eighth of December 1652. *to the Lord* Bradſhaw *and Maſter* Allen, *by* Thomas Violet, *who the ſame day delivered the ſaid Paper to the* Councel *of* State, *and the Councel upon ſeveral debates before the Comittee of Forraigne affaires Ordered, the* 13. *of December* 1652. *the ſaid* Tho. Violet *to aſſiſt, on the behalf of the* Commonwealth, *the proſecution in the high Court of* Admiralty *againſt the ſhips* Samſon, Salvador *and* George, *which had then aboard all the ſilver now coyning in the Tower, and that he ſhould repair to* D. VValker, *Advocate for the* Comonwealth, *and acquaint him from time to time what he had to offer on behalf of the publique in reference to the ſaid Ships.*

MAy it pleaſe your Honor, having underſtood from ſome Merchants that the *Councel* of *State* have referred the Spaniſh Ambaſſadors claime to a great quantity of Treaſure, which hee pretends to bee his Maſters, the King of *Spaines* ſilver, and all the ſilver belonging to his Maſters ſubjects (unto the *Admiralty*, there to receive a Judgement according to the equity of the cauſe.) In all humilitie I acknowledge the Juſtice of the *Admiralty*, and that I beleeve they will doe their utmoſt, both for doing the Spa-

niſh Ambaſſador right, and to ſee the *State* ſhall have what belongs juſtly to them.

But withall I thinke it my duty to acquaint you, that the proceedings in the *Admiralty* muſt goe according to the formes of that Court, except the Judges receive ſome extraordinary direction from the *Parliament* or the *Councel* of *State* in this weighty buſineſſe; now I humbly ſay, the proceedings at Law will take ſo much time up that the Merchants will ſend into *Spayne* for new cocquets, and new Bills of lading, and for money no doubt they will get a poſt-Regiſtring, and I am confident there are many in *London* can write and counterfeit Bills of lading and Cockets and never ſend into *Spayne* for them; beſides, I have good reaſon to beleeve the hearts, purſes, heads and books of accounts of many Merchants of *London*, will be all ready to aſſiſt the Dutch-Merchants to cozen the *State* of this Treaſure; and truly my humble opinion is, that if any publike miniſters can by their policy get all this ſilver out of the *Parliaments* hands, that then they will bee extraordinarily rewarded by them of *Holland* for ſalvage of this Treaſure, it will be beyond Commiſsion, money or factoridge.

And as the conjuncture of time ſtands between us and the Dutch this preſent moneth of December, ſome publique Miniſters in *England* will have the profitableſt employment of any Ambaſſador in the World, if they can chriſten all Hollanders goods and Treaſure with the name of Antwerpians, Oſtenders and Dunkirkers; or by his or their power can make all goods laden in Hamburgers or Hance townes, that thoſe goods muſt of neceſsity belong to *Hamborough*, when I have certaine profe to juſtifie the contrary, and I humbly deſire, before the ſhips be diſcharged, my witneſſes may be all examined, and upon the perill of my life I will prove that in theſe ſhips there are great quantities of ſilver for the Accompt of

Hollanders

Hollanders, and people of the united Provinces.

I having formerly beene privy to the proceedings of Merchants that have tranſported gold and ſilver out of this Nation, and alſo acquainted with ſeveral Merchants that have yeerely imported ſilver from *Spayne*, I thought it my duty to acquaint you, that if the *Parliament* and *Councel* of *State* be not very vigilant in this buſineſſe, and of the proceedings about the ſilver, they will be cozened of their right, for there will be no ſtone left unturned both by the Merchants beyond Seas and here, to circumvent the *State* of this Treaſure.

This that I ſay, I ſpeake not out of ill will to the Hollander, for there are ſeveral of the *Councel* of *State* did me the honor to aske me what I thought of a Peace or Warre; I ever, with all humilitie, told thoſe that asked mee; that there could never come a more ſafe nor honorable thing to the *State*, then to conclude a ſafe and honorable Peace with *Holland*, yet though I loved them very well while wee had Peace, I reſpect them not now during the time of Warre, after ſuch a rate that they by craft ſhould cozen the *State* of this great Treaſure, which is now taken, if to the uttermoſt of my power I could hinder it, or ad any thing to the ſtop of it; and knowing what great miſchiefs would come to this Nation, if I did not make your Honors acquainted with theſe practiſes; I thinke I am bound, as any Engliſh-man, not to feare the face of any, though I know it will get mee ill will, and a ſhrewd turne, even with ſom great ones in power; this ſervice ſhall beare me record how faithfully I ever loved and doe love my Countrey, and convince all thoſe that have miſrepreſented mee to the *State*, that after ſo long oppreſſion I may have my Eſtate reſtored; and this is the true reaſon wherfore I humbly preſent this Paper to your Honor, *vizt.*

My Lord, when the King of *Spaynes* fleete returns to ſaint *Lucar*, there lies out alwaies beyond the bar of ſaint *Lucar*, which is out of the command of the Caſtle, ſeveral ſhips of all Nations, and theſe lie there purpoſely to take in ſilver and gold, coucheneele, and all other *India* commodities ſo ſtolne aboard, which ſome yeeres there hath beene impoſed above twenty in the hundred for Regiſtring.

Theſe goods being ſhipped, as aforeſaid, then the Maſter of the ſhip that takes them in, uſually ſignes three Bills, beſide the Regiſter of his owne bookes, which in time of Warre are many; and every Captaine, Maſter or Purſer muſt keepe and carry with him one, to enter all parcels and accounts: One bill of theſe three the Merchant uſually ſends along with the ſhip, with a letter of advice to the Merchant, what he hath ſent him, the markes and weight, or number of Ingots, or peeces of eight, and the marks and number of all bails, fardels, cheſts or caske: Another of theſe bills is ſent over land uſually by the Poſt, with letters of advice of ſuch goods, gold and ſilver, and thoſe bills a ſhipboard they alter according to the courſe they are to ſteere; if it be through the chanell of one two or three enemies, they will ſhew ſeverall bills of lading and bookes of entries, but thoſe bills that goe by land are alwaies the true bills, the other bills in theſe times are uſually amuſements to defraude the *State*, but uſually thoſe that come by the Poſt are the true bills, but for thoſe on ſhip-board uſually the Merchants know a moneth ſooner then the ſhips coming by Sea, what gold and ſilver or comodities his Factor hath ſhipped, and in what ſhips, and gives order accordingly at *Dover*, or other Ports in this Nation, for ſending his goods to ſeverall places beyond Sea, or to *London*, according as advice ſhall be given him, where the beſt market

is

is; the third bill is alwaies kept in the Factors hands to sue the Master, if he doth not deliver the Goods according to his Bills of lading: And if the Master deliver the Goods, the receipts on any one of the true Bills of Lading discharges the other two Bills.

That the State would be pleased to desire any publique Agents that lay claim, to shew the originall Warrants (for sending away this silver from *Spain*, either at *Cales* or S. *Lucars*, or other Ports) bills of lading or his originall Letters, such as he or they will stand upon his or their honor are the true originalls out of *Spain*, taken at Saint *Lucar* or *Cadiz*, and that exact copies may be taken by the Admiralty, and this to be done forthwith, and that they put in all their claims they make to any Goods, gold or silver in these ships very sodainly, upon their honor to be just and true claims without any guile or fraud.

That the State will be pleased to take order, that the Admirallty strictly examine all the chief Factors and Mariners of these ships, what Country men they are? where there aboad is? whether they doe not goe by false names? and to give a just answer at their perill; and which of them belongs to *Holland*? and whether they have made any Bills of Lading falsly at Sea, or in the *Downs*, or since they came into *England* and antedated the same? if done, by whose advice? and who were privy unto it? or have defaced or torn leaves out of their books of Invoyces? or altered their Bills or Books since they came from *Spain*? and who were present at the doing thereof?

That they give you an accompt where each of them lye, and at whose house in Saint *Katherines*, or elsewhere, what Merchants in *London* they know, or have communication with? and who are their Factors? and set down their names, where each particular man dwells.

That they declare upon oath, who they know hath

ſent beyond Seas to have the ſilver and gold and commodities claimed by the *State* regiſtred in *Spayne*, ſince the ſtay of the treaſure here, and what men in *London* have beene advizing and aſsiſting that way, and where they dwell, and what Notaries or others in *London* have given them advice concerning the premiſſes.

What Merchants they know have promiſed any publique Miniſters of *State* any ſummes of money, and what agreement or ſatisfaction they ſhould have, if hee, or they, could get the ſilver claimed by him or them, into his or their hands, and ſent beyond Seas; to name what Merchants that live in *England*, and what Nation ſoever have had any treatie or agreement with them, or any publique miniſters or others, for the purpoſe and intents aforeſaid.

My humble ſuit to your Lordſhip is, that the *Councel* of *State* would be pleaſed to uſe all the expedition they can in the buſineſſe, and to ſettle ſome ſtrict order in it, for if they give the Merchants time to ſend to *Spayne*, the Merchants will there have what things regiſtred, and upon whoſe accompt they pleaſe; and ſeeing that here they cannot have one penny, if that we prove the ſilver and commodities belong to *Holland*, they are and will be conſtrained to goe to *Spayne*, and there, though it be a confiſcation to ſend away ſilver before it be Regiſtred, without the Kings Licence, yet the great Officers and Stateſmen to have a good ſhare, in all probability will get the Kings pardon, and to give what Certificats ſhall bee deſired, as they have formerly done in *Otho Georges* caſe (provided the Dutch will pay well for it.) To prevent which, there is nothing but expedition, before they have learned their leſſon from *Spayne*; if theſe Merchants which claime this ſilver would ſpeake truth, they know almoſt all this Silver is for the accompt of *Amſterdam*, *Dort*, and *Netherland* merchants

merchant. *My Lord, if the* State *in the examination of theſe particulars will command my ſervice in this buſineſſe, by Gods aſſiſtance I ſhall give you a good Accompt, I ſhall with all readines attend it faithfully, & to the uttermoſt of my power doe my duty; for to have this plot diſcovered highly concernes the* Commonwealth; *I have beene privie to their ſecret practiſes of tranſporting of Treaſure to all parts of Chriſtendome, out of this Nation, therfore may know the way to unravell this ſecret combination ſooner then others; for I am aſſured no man in this Nation hath had the oportunitie to know theſe waies as I doe, for I was imployed in theſe diſcoveries, by the late King and his Couucell many yeeres; and my Lord, an old Deere-ſtealer is the beſt Keeper of a Parke.*

It may ſo chance that it may be pretended that all the ſilver that is in theſe ſhips, and not Regiſtred, is the King of *Spaynes*, as by the law it is, if it were ſeized in *Flanders*, or the King of *Spaynes* dominions; but this pretence if ſet on foote, will hold no water here, as I humbly conceive, for wee are not to anſwere to that point: the Merchant had beene lyable in *Spayn* or at *Dunkirke* to have anſwered the Lawe for tranſporting treaſure before it be Regiſtred in *Spayne*, but coming into our harbours, as a prize of *Holland*, and they being enemies to this *State*, wee are not to be accountable for what theſe goods or monies owes the ſtate of *Spayne* for want of Regiſtring them, nor any perſon ſuffered to claime more then is Regiſtred in *Spayne*, and the State have cleere ſatisfaction of the reall truth of that claime; for they, having cozened the King of his duties, intended to bring this treaſure home to each Hollander upon their private accompt; and this queſtion, I humbly deſire to have your honors put to any forraigne Agent that claimes, whether he or they lay claim to the treaſure as forfeit to his or their Maſter, for want of Regiſtring, or that he or they claim it as all ſhipt for his Maſters and his ſubjects proper accompt, upon cleere and juſt bills of

lading in *Spayne*? my humble Petition is, that they be desired to answere upon his or their Honors that point.

The Dutch Merchants that are concerned in this silver, are so well versed in making false entries, double bills of lading, Certificates, Charterparties, and all other frauds of this nature, that if they have time given them to hatch their egges, there shall be neither a bar of silver nor peeces of eight but what they will bring a Certificate out of *Spayne* for the Registring it, eyther for the King of *Spaynes* proper accompt or for his Subjects or Hamburgers; they will finde any Nation to lay clayme unto it, saving the right owners, which in truth is the Merchants of *Amsterdam* and *Netherlands*, and you may rest assured the Dutch will rather set on foote any pretended clayme, eyther Spanyards or Antwerpians to deceive us, rather then that the English should have it they care not who hath it, for they know we shall lay all this money out in powder and shot for them, and they no doubt will leave no stone unroled to prevent us in that particular, if great care be not taken in this businesse.

All the Premisses considered, I humbly desire your Honor that the *Councel* of *State* may know of these my most humble propositions, and take such Order in it, as the greatnesse of the cause requires, for the safety and benefit of the *Common-wealth*, all which I humbly submit to your Honors great wisdome, and remaine

Decemb. 8. 1652.

My Lord, your humble servant

THO. VIOLET.

Monday

Monday the 13. of December 1652. At the *Councel* of *State* at *White-hall.*

ORDERED, *That Maſter* Thomas Violet *doe aſsiſt in the behalfe of the* Common-wealth, *in the proſecution of this preſent Suit, in the high Court of* Admiralty, *againſt the ſhips* Samſon, Salvador *and* George. *And that hee doe repaire to Doctor* Walker, *Advocate for the* Common-wealth, *and acquaint him from time to time, what hee hath to offer on the behalfe of the Publique in Reference to the ſaid Ships.*

Ex. *John Thurloe* Cleark of the *Councel.*

A Breviat of ſeverall Papers delivered to Doctor Walker, *& ſeverall of the Committee of* Forraigne affaires, *ſince the 13. of December 1652. to the 27. of January 1652. according to an Order of the* Councel *of* State *of the 13. of December laſt, concerning ſeverall prize-ſhips, and the ſilver and merchandize therein, with a Letter to Doctor* Walker *the 29. of January 1652. concerning all the Premiſſes.*

Dr. WALKER, *My ſervice preſented.*

SIR, the Bullion, Money and Merchandize at preſent under queſtion in the ſhips *Sampſon, Salvador* and *George*, depending in the *Admiralty*, is of ſo great and conſiderable a value, and of ſo high concernment in preſident, and other relation to the *Common-wealth*, and moſt of it ſo probable to prove lawfull prize, if timely and duly proſecuted, and the

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paſſengers in the ſaid ſhips, and other witneſſes I have preſented to Maſter *Bud* to be examined; it behoves the *State*, as I humbly conceive, not to ſuffer theſe ſhips to paſſe, as many ſhips of great value ſince the warre with the Netherlands have done, to the unſpeakable dammage of this Nation, it being no new thing for the Hollanders, in time of warre, to ſaile under the colours and names, and with the cockets of *Hamborough*, or ſome other of the *Hanſe-townes*, for they did it all the while they had warres with *Spayne*, nor for the ſhips of the *Hance-townes*, *Oſtenders* and *Dunkirkers* to bee tranſporters of Dutch goods through our Seas, from and to all parts of Chriſtendome, eſpecially *Spayne*.

Nay, many times, the better to countenance, their ſhip or ſhips ſhall be built in *Holland*, and formerly ſold to ſome friend or correſpondent in *Hamborough*, *Emden*, *Lubeck*, *Dunkirk*, *Oſtend*, or the like, and for the better colour called the *Lion* or *Dove*, &c. of ſom of the aforeſaid places; when really and actually it belongs to *Holland* or *Zealand*, and for inſtance whereof one of the ſhips now in queſtion, ſtiles it ſelf by the name of the *Hamborough* of *Hamborough*, and is certainly known and will be proved to belong to *Rotterdam*, and ſo no queſtion will many more of the ſhips under areſt prove to belong to ſome towne of *Holland*, and the united Provinces, when ſtrictly and duly examined.

Nor is it any new practiſe for publique Miniſtrs of other States to make uſe of their function and Maſters Roabe, to befriend the ſubject of their Allies, in caſe of the like nature of clayming Treaſure and Merchandize, wherein the native trade (as in this) may be concerned, or were it not but for the advantage of ſalvage in ſuch caſes conived at, and many times by the inſtructions of their ſuperiors allowed to publique miniſters, as perquiſites of their imploy-

ments

ments they many times gaining more by ſuch avenies, then by their conſtant ſalaries.

I have often heard ſir *Lewis Dives* ſay, that when he lived in *Spayne* with his father in law, the earle of *Briſtoll*, and the Lord *Cottington*, they did doe the ſame for the Dutch in *Spayne* as is now offered for the Dutch in *England*.

And I beleeve there are ſome forraigne Princes agents in *England* at this time, that underſtand to make their particular profit, in this conjuncture of time, as well, if not better, then eyther the earle of *Briſtoll*, or the lord *Cottington* did in *Spayne*; and upon this ground and for this end, it is more then probable that ſome publique agents appeare in this preſent queſtion in the *Admiralty*; not that eyther their Maſter or his ſubjects, in all likelyhood, are otherwiſe concerned, nor he or they warranted therein, but only for their particular profit.

Sir, this is not a common cauſe, and I ſee you take it ſo by your care, you keepe your word, you bid me find proofe and you will hold the ſhips and ſilver, let ſome of the Judges talke what they pleaſe, you will diſcharge your truſt.

Sir, the ſtate of *Spayne* is rarely known to have ſent or tranſported any bars of ſilver, or coyne on their owne or other ſhips whatſoever, to the prejudice of their Mint, that being moſt abſolute contrary to their lawes, which makes tranſporting money death, without the Kings originall Licence; had the Merchants one, they would have ſhewed it before now. True, it is often ſtoln away by the Dutch, which is done without the Kings warrant, bills of ſtore, or publique allowance, and ſo you will finde this is, and thereby the more lyable to queſtion, and upon ſtrict examination it will be cleerely proved prize : if the Dutch ſhould cozen us of this money now they are ranting in the *Downes*, the

Commonwealth would ſuffer extraordinarily.

Therefore all perſons that claime this ſilver, I humbly conceive, ought to be preſt to declare ſpecially and particularly, whether he or they pretend the money, or bullion, or any part of it to be the King of *Spaynes* peculiar Treaſure, or his ſubjects? and if ſo, he or they ought to ſhew ſome ſpeciall and authentique Warrant or Order of his or their Maſters or Officers for it, Regiſtred in the ports of *Spayne*, and alſo to prove that by authentique witneſſes, by ſome of his Maſters ſubjects, at the place or Port of S. *Lucar* or *Cadiz*, and atteſted here by like originall bills from the officers of the Cuſtomes in *Spayne*, which bills of lading correſpondent, and their authentique duplicats, with letters of conſignement ſuteable, the Purſers bookes of entries, with all the particular and reſpective marks agreeing with the bills of lading, bills of ſtore and letters of conſignement, and all the markes of the bars and bags duly Regiſtred, either for the King of *Spayne*, or his particular ſubjects. If they cannot ſpell and ſpeake all this perfectly, juſtly and truly, at the Port of ſaint *Lucar* or *Cadiz*, they may faile of their ends for all their confident clayming, and the like might every Merchant pretender doe, or fail of his.

Nor can the Articles (of the old League) ſuppoſing it to be renued and confirmed by this *Commonwealth*, excuſe the ſhips *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*, under queſtion, from a ſearch, as is pretended they ought to be, unleſſe they firſt prove, that thoſe ſhips, ſilver, and all the lading doe really belong unto his Maſter or ſome of his ſubjects (nor thoſe of the Netherlands) which I humbly ſay, he or they will never be able to doe, and I have ſufficient proof to the contrary, if I can but get my witneſſes examined: I have about eight witneſſes to examine; and the Merchants will pack many of them away now they hear I have

I have uſed to ſend ſom of my Intelligencers amongſt them into St. *Katherines* and other places.

In the mean time, if either his Maſter or his ſubjects receive damage by any publique miniſters claiming ſilver which is none of theirs, but belongs to *Holland*, the *Commonwealth* is excuſed and free, and the publique miniſter muſt bear the blame, if any, uſing his Maſter or his Subjects title to the ſilver, when they had no title or intereſt therein, wch if that deſigne had taken effect, all men may ſee the damage that would acrue to this Nation thereby, whatſoever may be pretended to the contrary.

Sir, The law takes no notice of Words; but legall proof and evidence where a publique miniſter bears Parol againſt the intereſt of the *Commonwealth* amounts to no more then a private mans: for when a claim is laid to all this ſilver by forraign Agents, as the King of *Spain* and his Subjects ſilver, I ſhall prove part of this ſilver belongs to ſome Merchants of the united Provinces, our mortall enemies, and a ſmall part of this ſilver belongs to ſome Merchants in *London*.

Sir, If I finde a man tripping for a penny, I will trace him for a pound; I fear not to ſpeak a truth in this particular, it is for the ſafety and well being of the Nation that makes me ſpeak ſo earneſtly.

Sir, though in Court and matters of State, publique miniſters be allowed a Credence paramount, agreeable to their letters Credentiall of forraign Princes; yet neither thoſe Letters nor their Function ſhall, I humbly conceive, allow them any, neither the leſt priviledge or preheminence (beyond civility) in any Court of Juſtice againſt the Common-wealths title in this buſineſſe of the aforeſaid Prizes and ſilver.

1. The Spanyards are as rarely found to trade out of their own Territories, all writers ſay (or between) upon Strangers bottoms as their King himſelf, and ſo

the goods not likely to have beene theirs originally, or by originall consignment; colourably perhaps they may, that is since their seizure consigned to som of *Antwerpe* to defeate the claime of this *Commonwealth*, they being commonly partners with the Amsterdammers, that being usuall in cases of the like nature, especially where so much respite of time hath beene given, and so much money stolne out of these ships, which shall in all likelyhood be imployed to bribe out of the States hands these ships, if they can fasten on any, in power, that will be so wicked to receive bribes, if my humble advice had beene followed, the stealing this silver had beene prevented.

2. The like assuredly may be affirmed touching the money bullion and plate in the ships in question since the naturall subjects of *Spayne* dare as ill, or worse, transport any silver, as strangers, the crime being alike penall to both, but the subject in a worse condition, if he adventure, being a man of estate, because he remaines in the Countrey, when the stranger perhaps never returnes to answere it, if discovered; after he is out of the Countrey, as upon publication of this businesse many will not dare to returne into *Spayne*, lest they forfeit not only their own particular, and their friends estates, but also their lives.

But Sir, suppose it may bee objected, that generall negatives, from never so many instances, of never so universall *non vzans*, amounts not to the face of one particular affirmative prose *in contra*; yet it cannot be denied for reason, and so I humbly conceive, ought to be granted, that som such distinct, particular and significant proofe in a cause of this high nature and concernment to the profit and safety of this *Common-wealth*, ought first to bee made of the lading of this silver, and that from the originall Port of *Cadiz* or *S. Lucar*, under the Kings Seale

Seale, or from the Duanas there, before any credit can be given to generals, againſt ſo known, conſtant and univerſall cuſtome of frauds daily practiſed againſt this *Common-wealth*, as I have diſcovered concerning theſe Prize-ſhips before mentioned.

Sir, I have made ſome of the *Councel* of *State* acquainted with the ſeverall waies, how the Merchants cozen the *State* about their prize-ſhips and goods, and they are very apprehenſive of it, and I know ſome of the State will call this buſineſſe to a ſtrict accompt, therefore I humbly deſire you therein, ſtill to continue your care as you have done.

Sir, truly if at the firſt thoſe publique Miniſters that claimed had produced originall Warrants from the King of *Spayne*, the atteſtation of the Ports of *Cadiz* and S. *Lucar* from the Duanas there, by authentique witneſſes, that this ſilver was ſhipped for the King of *Spayne* or his ſubjects proper accompt, and that all that was claimed was really true, and made that the ground of their exceptions againſt the proceedings of the judicature of the *Admiralty*, & therein had appealed to the *Councel* of *State* or *Parliament*, my humble opinion is, that perhaps their demands might have arived at a fairer iſſue then now they may have reaſon to expect.

And (by Gods aſsiſtance) they ſhall have a quick and a vigilant eye on them; for night and day, I and my Inſtruments ſhall watch them, ſo that ſom merchants and others may live to wiſh they never had medled in this ſilver buſineſſe, and this I will proſecute according to my Order faithfully, though it coſt me all that ever I have in the world; I know I have ventred my life in this buſineſſe, and I will not pluck back my hand let my hazard be what it will.

Sir, whoſoever travels, and will enter the confines of another Nation, though in amity; by the Civill-law, that is the law of Nations, it behooves

 him

him to carry with him a ſufficient Paſſe, declaring from whence, and what he is, to what place bound, and when demanded by any publick Officer to make that known and proved, or upon refuſall, or for want of ſuch a paſſe, he is at diſcretion liable to bee areſted and impriſoned untill hee cleere the doubt and give ſatisfaction to the law, but if it be proved he hath made a falſe Paſſe, or that hee bee of another name or Countrie then hee pretends, hee may bee hanged for a Spie.

The like Lawe governs at Sea, the Sea-mans ordinary Paſſe for his ſhip, is his Cockets, I meane true ones, not counterfeit and feigned, his true bills of ſhore, bills of lading, letters of conſignment, Purſers and Supercargoes bookes fairely and truly kept for his goods, not ſuch bills as *Otho George* preſents, and if any Maſter of a ſhip be found at Sea without theſe, or the chiefe of them at leaſt, he ſhall be taken under the notion of the Lawe for a Pirot or common enemie, if he have any ſuch and will not ſhew them when required at Sea, or that any of them be juſtly to bee ſuſpected by the Commander that requires them, ſuch Maſter my be brought before the Court of *Admiraltie*, or a Court of *Delegates* for his tryall, and if there he refuſe to cleere himſelfe, ſhip, goods, and every part of his lading, by the reſpective waies of proof and warrants, before mentioned, or that the Captain, Maſter or Purſer have torn, imbezeled or flung away any letters of advice, or bills of lading, or forging falſe bills, or names, if proved, or any miſcarriage as aforeſaid, ſuch refuſall and practiſes in other Countries is accounted a high contempt to the authority of the Nation, by which ſuch Court ſits, and for a ſufficient ground to an imediat confiſcation.

Sir, if this be not made a Law in *England*, for the future, and the like for any Maſter or Purſer of any ſtran-

ſtrangers ſhip, paſsing the Seas of this *Common-wealth*, upon ſummons, that ſhall preſent unto the Commander or Judge, falſe bills or Cockets, and to conceale any part of their lading or faculties, and not to diſcover the proper owners to whom, or from whom they are conſigned, this Nation will deerely finde much of that which might help to maintaine the Warre will goe beſides, and the *State* will ſtill be deluded by the Dutch, as they have beene to the value of about two Millions ſince Auguſt laſt, for it is an uſuall cuſtome with traders of all Nations, eſpecially the Dutch and Eaſterlines, in time of Warre, to carry to Sea, as many Cockets as Colours, and as many ſeverall bills as they feare enemies, or queſtion, and if they be ſurprized, can at a very ſhort warning procure and counterfeit what may ſerve their turnes: And this you ſhall finde to be the true ſtate of the ſhips *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*, with all their lading and ſilver.

Wherefore, and for which cauſe chiefly, the ſtrictneſſe aforementioned is uſed in other Nations, *viz.* to prevent colluſion. Sir, in *France*, one parcell of goods found conſigned to an enemy confiſcates the ſhip and goods. In *Spayne* or *Holland*, a barrell of butter, or a caſe of Piſtolls, conſigned but as a preſent to a friend ſhall doe the like, and I hope the ſame civill-lawe we receive from them ſhall, by us, be put on them now theſe ſhips are in judgement before you in *England*; it is for the honor and ſafety of this Nation I preſſe, and I ſee you doe your utmoſt, would I could ſay ſo of the reſt in truſt in the *Admiralty*.

Sir, it is to bee feared, that if this *Common-wealth* doe not make ſome neceſſary additions to their Sea-lawes, and give ſome new Rules and Inſtructions to their Court of *Admiralty*, to prevent the many abuſes put on us by the Dutch, in the buſineſſe of the *States* prizes, other Nations will gaine advantage by our

neglect, or over easines; it appearing, that for want of such amendment, or at the least not understanding those lawes in force by our Sea Commanders, &c. many a rich ship hath escaped their hands, and safely arived in *Holland* since the War (which the Dutch began) to the value of above one million of money by that way, and no lesse to be suspected that the enemy by his subtle taking advantage of the old, and too gentle practice of our Court of *Admiralty*, and chiefly by their not being put to pleade specially, may probably get these that remaine now under question to be freed likewise, if not timely looked unto, and thereby the *State* farther abused and prevented, the enemy encouraged and enabled, whiles our owne honest Merchants sit at home and breake, or thrive not (a fatall mischief to this *Common-wealth*) our enemies gayning, upon the matter, what we lose or let passe; and to breake this confederacy, the *State* must make sharpe lawes, and then see them strictly put in execution; the meanes left for remedy is, securing at present the ships and goods and silver, which lies under question, and I conceive ought carefully to be looked after.

Sir, I finde some in power and trust forward to gratifie the Dutch in this particular, to the unspeakeable damage and hazard of this Nation, to prevent which, I humbly propound this way, *viz.*

1. Sir, I offer in my owne name, as for the intrest of the *Common-wealth*, to protest against the late acts and proceedings of the Court of *Admiraltie*, to pray respit of Judgement, and to appeale to a Court of *Delegates*, according to the Statute

2. A Commission being granted thereupon to some select, knowing and approved Persons, whereof some chief to be of the *Coram*, and before them proving the daily imbezelment of the silver, the unsafety of the goods, and the apparent danger of

their

their imbezeling, whiles they remaine on ſhip-board, which by affidavit, and other good teſtimony may eaſily be proved. Sir, I pray that the goods, mony eſpecially, may be brought a ſhore, and ſecured in ſafe ward, untill the cauſe be returned, and for better information of the Delegates, that all former proceedings of the ordinary Court of *Admiraltie* touching the premiſſes in queſtion by name, may be returned into that Court, and my ſelfe Ordered and impowred with a larger Commiſsion in ſeverall reſpects, for enabling me to doe this ſervice.

This cauſe being agreeable not only with the laws of this *Common-wealth*, but conſonant to the cuſtoms, lawes and uzance of all other Nations, in caſes of like eminencie and doubt, the conveniences thereof will be.

1. It will put a ſtop to moſt of the abuſes and inconveniences afore mentioned, without blemiſh to the former proceedings of the Court of *Admiraltie*, redeeme the cauſe from that loſse it is now in danger of, and diſappoint many mens expectations, who have laid a deſigne to cozen the *State* of this treaſure, and lay a foundation to Rules, and give matter for further inſtruction for the government of that Court, a buſineſſe of great concernment to the ſafety of the Nation, in this preſent conjuncture of time.

2. Whiles the cauſe is but removed into a higher Court and depends there, in order only untill a legall tryall, neither any publique Agent, nor other pretender whoever can juſtly complain, eſpecially they having given ſo great a cauſe of jealouſie, by claiming more then their owne, in owning other mens treaſure, and by refuſing to produce ſpeciall proofes for what they pretend to, it being at worſt but *lex talionis*, we finde the ſame meaſure abroad in all like courts of Chriſtendome at this preſent; I humbly conceive the affaires of the *Common-wealth* doe

Gifford

not

not ſtand in ſuch a poſture, that they ſhould ſuffer themſelves to be cozened of foure hundred thouſand pounds now I have diſcovered the fraud to them; this money will ſave taxes, it will ſet the Mint on worke, and fill the *Common-wealth* with money, and for every one I diſpleaſe I ſhall pleaſe a hundred honeſt men, that are true lovers of their Countrey.

3. Sir, whiles the plate Bullion, or other goods remaines aboard the ſhips, and in the Maſters cuſtody, they pretend an Intereſt by poſſeſsion, and taking hold of ſome ill-cuſtomes and prejudiciall Rules of our court of *Admiralty*; you the *Common-wealths* Advocate are put to proove the goods in queſtion to bee our enemies.

Sir, the goods and monies being once brought a ſhore, and in the *States* poſſeſsion, or under ward by order of the Juſtice, they which were Defendants before, muſt be Complaynants, and of courſe prove their Intereſt, eſpecially and upon authentique teſtimonies out of the bookes of cuſtomes and Records in *Spayne*, whereby many an advantage will accrue in evidence for the *States* availe, the money for want of ſufficient Warrants to tranſport it, or of ſpeciall Laders to owne and juſtifie the Bills of lading to bee truely and juſtly entred at S. *Lucar* or *Cadiz*, will undoubtedly be moſt of it the *Common-wealths*, and if the money be gained, certainly much of the goods will endanger the ſame fortune.

4. In caſe any difficulties ſhould happen in proofe or ſcruple, upon any thing offered in evidence on the other ſide, the Court may thereon take time for better information by intelligence from abroad both in *Spayne* and *Holland* and other parts, and no queſtion much advantage themſelves by overtures of proof on the contrary part.

5. Honored ſir, ſuppoſe the *Common-wealth* ſhould at preſent have any treaty of friendſhip in hand,

which

which they would not have willingly obſtructed, or diſordered, or any enemy whom they would willingly invite by kindneſſe, which ſeldome ſucceeds to expectation, the Duch being a ſtubborne people, here are many helps for both advantages, of both kindes, they may gratifie themſelves or friends as they pleaſe, and *pendente lite*, take what time they pleaſe for eyther.

6. And laſtly, In caſe, in the meane time, the *Common-wealth* ſhall have any preſent uſe of this treaſure, they may take an occaſion at the coſt of a complement, to draw all the Bullion and ſilver through their Mint, the worſt of it being only to promiſe reſtitution in caſe any part of it ſhould prove lawfull prize; a conveniency which no ſtate in Chriſtendom having like occaſion would bauke, or deny it ſelfe, in ſo faire an oportunity, for which there wants no preſidents in the beſt times of government under Monarchy, in ſeveral preſidents in Queene *Elizabeths* time, from which it can be no diſadvantage for this *Common-wealth*, to take ſome examples, eſpecially in things belonging to forraigne affaires,

29. January 1652. THO. VIOLET.

SEverall of theſe Papers, with ſome alterations and additions, I alſo delivered to the Committee of forraigne affaires; to Doctor *Clarke*, Advocate for the *Common-wealth*, M. *Wilſon*, M. *Oxenbridg*, and M. *Sparrow*, Commiſsioners for Duch prize goods, with a liſt of about fourſcore witneſſes, part of them have beene examined in the Court of *Admiralty*, and ſome of them told me they could not be alowed to have put down what they ſaid to the exami-

ner, and three of them, holding their hands before their eyes, ſaid; that Spaniſh ſilver had put out the eyes of ſome in the Court of *Admiraltie*, and if there were not ſome ſtricter care taken about the *States* prizes, the Hollander would laugh in his ſleeve, to ſee how they daily had cozened us, and theſe perſons were Maſter *Long* and his two ſonnes, all three ſhip Carpenters, and people that had for about thirty yeeres lived in Holland, and came over in obedience to the Act that calls ſhip carpenters home out of foraigne Countries, and they knew ſome of theſe ſhips that have beene diſcharged the Court, to bee *Holland* ſhips, and ſeveral of the mariners and maſters of ſhips to belong to the people of the united Provinces; I carried them downe to view the ſhips that were under queſtion, and we found many ſhot and torne, and yet theſe ſhips have beene diſcharged; I ſeeing the combination of ſeveral of the Court of *Admiralty* to neglect their duty, did ſit up together many nights and dayes, and never ſlept in that time, with the aſsiſtance of ſeverall men to write night and day; I did by Gods aſsiſtance and my intelligence get full proofe to entitle the *State* to the ſilver, to make it all prize, as appears by my Letter to maſter *David Bud*, the Proctor for the *Commonwealth. fol.* 90. 91. 92. 93.

THO. VIOLET.

Doctor Walker,

SIR, you may be pleaſed upon peruſall of theſe Papers to ſee cleerly that I looke not after the coyning of the ſilver, but will alſo (by Gods aſsiſtance) prove that almoſt all the ſilver in every one of theſe ſhips remayning here is lawfull prize, the like I ſhall doe for almoſt all the goods a ſhip-

board

board, notwithstanding some in the Court of *Admiralties* forwardnesse for the clearing of them; truely Sir, I humbly tell you, the English proverb will proove true in this particular, *That soft fire makes sweete Mault*, and I am sure in this businesse, *haste hath made wastes* in so high a nature, that if it had not beene timely prevented by mee, the losse had beene irreparable to this *Common-wealth*, to have had this silver come unto the Duch, in this conjuncture of time.

Sir, for the treasure a shipboard the *George*, *Sampson*, *Salvadore*, the *Peter*, the *Michael*, and severall other ships that came in company all together from *Cadiz*, the thirteenth of October 1652. that is a thing impossible but that the *State* must have for lawfull prize above nine parts of ten, of all the Treasure aboard any of the aforesaid ships, if you pursue the order of this note I herewith send you; Sir, it is for the safety of the *State*, their well being depends thereon, that makes me so earnest in this businesse night and day; I have it from knowing hands, that it is agreeable to the civill-Lawe, by prime men that know by practise in forraigne Countries these things to bee true. And therfore I doe most humbly recommend them to your just care, as you have most worthily done, for which I give you humble thanks: Moreover I humbly tell you, I have proofe the silver in these ships was stolne a shipboard by night by the Spanish Bravos, or Boatmen, some of the ships lay foure moneths in the Harbour of *Cadiz*, only looking for the Spanish fleete, and this is known unto all honest Merchants an ordinary course for the Hamburgers every yeere to doe the same, and that these ships stole in by night, for sixteene or seventeene nights together, severall parcels of silver, and that the silver so stolne a shipboard was in returnes of goods sent to the West-*Indies*, which were goods sent by the

Hollanders formerly, and by their owne confeſsion if the ſilver were taken, it would be confiſcated by the *Common-wealth* of *England*, alſo it will be prooved, when the ſaid ſhips came away from *Spayne*, they all ſtole away without leave.

Sir, theſe things according to my order from the *Councel* of *State*, I humbly preſent unto you, for the ſervice of the *Common-wealth*, and remaine

Sir,

Your humble ſervant to command,

London, 29. *Jann.* 1652. THO. VIOLET.

For Vincent De la bar, *Eſquire*, *at* Dover.

SIR, and my moſt true friend, I received yours of the firſt of January, in anſwere to mine of the 26. of December, I finde that your urgent occaſions call on you to ſtay at home for the preſent. Sir, I am moſt tender of you, as my reſpects binde me for former civilities. Sir, I conceive wee have enough witneſſes at home, here at *London*, about that which I am required to doe by the *State*, for their ſervice, if not, I ſhall be enforced to make a journey into the Countrey to *Dover*. I have ſat up ſeven nights and dayes within theſe three weekes, about the *Salvador*, the *Sampſon*, the *George*, which ſhips have about foure hundred thouſand pounds of ſilver, and I ſhall prove it Duch ſilver; Maſter *Brames* will intimate the buſineſſe unto you how it ſtands; pray preſent my ſervice to your Lady, and to Maſter *De la vall*, when this buſineſſe ſhall come under an examination at *Dover*, I ſhall be carefull to doe you all juſt reſpects, I beleeve I may bee in few dayes commanded

ded to come downe unto you in one behalfe I am glad that I have an oportunitie to ſee you, the other part is concerning the greateſt buſineſſe in this Nation, in relation to the ſilver ſhips that are brought in as prize; in ſhort, you will finde that there is a generall *Imbargo*, and I will by my witneſſes, make all the ſilver in the *George*, the *Sampſon* and the *Salvadore* prize; when I ſhall ſee you I will tell you more then I will write.

London, 3. *Janu.* 1652. Sir,

your true friend
Tho. Violet.

I muſt ſuddenly ſpeake with Maſter *Thomas De la vall*, therefore I pray let him know it; *Ralfe Colline*, *Charles Valey ſenior*, *Charles Valey jun.* *Will. Dunſton*, *Michaell Debuz*, *James Younricks*, and have them all examined about theſe prize-ſhips and ſilver, and the States of Hollands Commiſsion to gard theſe Hamburgers from the Engliſh-fleete, I pray you have a care what Bills you accept, for you will finde this buſineſſe will breake a great many Merchants in *Holland*.

For Arnold Brames, *Eſquire*, *at* Bridge *by* Canterbury.

MY moſt noble friend I ſhould have waited on you on Wedneſday, at *Dover*, but I am commanded by my Superiors to obey them in *London*; Sir, the buſineſſe *I* ſpake laſt unto you of, *I* am confident ſince *I* parted from you that *I* have done my diſcovery, wee finde enough proofe out of

London to doe that buſineſſe, ſo for the preſent I ſhall not have the happineſſe to wait on you, but within few daies I thinke to receive order to come downe with Maſter *Charnock* unto you, *I* have writ ſo much to maſter *Vincent Delabar* my moſt worthy friend, *I* have divers times prayed to God to make me in ſuch a condition that I may really pay my vowes, that is to give you my life and fortune at any time, in requitall of your great civilities, and reſt aſſured *I* doe not deſire any inconveniency ſhould come upon you, or yours, in any buſineſſe *I* have a hand in, but if God ſhould ſo order it, *I* would venter as far as my life to ſerve you really, ſo far as the *States* juſt intreſt bee not hindered, and *I* know you expect no more, for my faith is ingaged to follow this buſineſſe to the uttermoſt. Farewell, The Prince of Merchants.

Your moſt oblieged friend

Lond. 8. *Jan.* 1653. THO. VIOLET.

I ſent poſt haſte for maſter *Edward Watkins* to come from *Dover* to aſsiſt mee in this buſineſſe, about the Silver in the prize-ſhips, and *I* thanke him he came up poſt preſently, which hath much oblieged me, and though the Parliament have taken away his place theſe foure yeeres paſt, yet he is as nimble to make theſe diſcoveries as ever he was, and he hath all his old inſtruments. Truly Sir, *I* ſhould have won your wager, if you had laid, about your old friend *Otho George*, you will ſee hee will not cleere his Silver ſo eaſily as you thinke, for *I* have both him and others faſt in a trap, and this you will find true; *I* pray have a care what Bills you accept from *Amſterdam*, for this buſineſſe will breake a great many there, *vale*. THO. VIOLET.

Thomas

Thomas Violet maketh Oath.

THE fourteenth day of December 1652. about foure of the clock in the afternoone, he met with Sir *Sackvile Crowe* in whitehall, hee told the Deponent, that the Spaniſh Embaſſadors buſineſſe was to lay claime to the Ships and Silver that were ſtayed by the Parliament, and the ſaid Sir *Sackvile Crowe* further told this Deponent, that within a few dayes hee had ſome ſerious communication about the buſineſſe with maſter *Pompey Calendrine*, a man he knew that was well verſed in all the ſubtleties of Trade, for that hee was brother in lawe to *Philip Burlamacke*, and his booke-keeper for all his accompts by exchange; ſince hee had an imployment in maſter *Prideaux* office, and mannaged the Letter office for maſter Attorney generall; Sir *Sackvile Crowe*, after ſeverall arguments *pro & con*, the reſult of all was, that *Pompey Calendrine* ſaid unto Sir *Sackvile Crowe*, that upon his owne knowledge the aforeſaid *Pompey Calendrine* knew that all the ſilver in the ſhips claimed by the ſpaniſh Ambaſſador, was and is really belonging to the Hollanders, and people of the united Provinces, and holding up his hand ſaid, doth this hand belong unto mee, ſo truely and really, to my knowledge, doth all this ſilver belong to the Hollanders, though the Spaniſh Ambaſſador claim it.

This Deponent further ſaith, that Sir *Sackvile Crowe* wiſhed the Deponent that hee would take ſom order to get *Pompey Calendrine* examined of the truth of this, for it is of great concernment to the *State*; This Deponent further ſaith, that friday the thirtith of December 1652. this Deponent wayted on Sir *Sackvile Crowe*, and found him at his lodging in the

Tower, and there this Deponent told Sir *Sackvile Crowe*, that according to his desire this Deponent would move and Petition the right honorable the Committee for *forraigne affaires*, that a Letter should be sent unto him to attend the Committee of *forraign affaires*, but I would not but first come and wait on him, to see if hee did not finde *I* had taken his sence aright, concerning what he told mee about *Pompey Calendrine*; whereupon hee said to mee I had, and that if he were commanded he would justifie a great deale more, that to his knowledge *Pompey Calendrine* had reason to say what he did, for if the Ambassador of *Spayne* had not proceeded according to the strict rules of the *Admiraltie*; Sir *Sackvile Crowe* knew then that there was fraude, knavery and roguery in the Merchant.

That if the Committee of *Forraigne affaires* would be pleased to admit him to speake his knowledge in this point, and they to appoint some of the Judges of the *Admiraltie* to be by, hee would make it cleere unto them, and taking out the engagement, bad me read that, and told me, since hee had taken the engagement, hee would bee as true to them as ever hee was to the King, and whatsoever his opinion was formerly, hee had not received such obligements from the other party to suffer upon his skore, as hee had to bee a sufferer for his father, and if the Committee for *Forraigne affaires* pleased to heare what hee could say unto the Judges of the *Admiralty* in this point, hee made no question but it should bee to your satisfaction, and a great service unto the *State*, and that he would attend the honorable Committee in this businesse at a dayes warning, and bid mee return this answer with his humble service.

Thr. 1. *Jan.* 1652.

THO. VIOLET.

This

THis Affidavit *I* delivered to Alderman *Allen* who communicated it to the honourable Committee of inſpection, and they carried it downe to the Committee of *Forraigne affaires*, who preſently ordered a Letter to bee ſent to Sir *Sackvile Crowe*, and alſo Ordered the Judges of the *Admiralty* to be there, with *Pompey Calendren*, whereupon the Committee for *Forraigne affaires* examined *Pompey Calendren* before the Judges about the ſame, who at firſt denied the thing, but being preſſed by the Lord *Bradſhaw*, Sir *William Maſſam* and others of the Committee, to conſider before whom he was, and to recollect himſelfe well, and ſeeing Sir *Sackvile Crowe* affirmed it, and much more to bee true, the ſaid *Calendren* confeſſed he received letters from *Amſterdam* that did acquaint him with what he had ſpoken to Sir *Sackvile Crowe*, and that he had the Letters by him and that he acquainted maſter Attorney-generall formerly with the contents of theſe Letters, whereupon the Committee required maſter *Pompey Calendren* to attend Doctor *Walker* with the Letters the ſame day, which he did accordingly.

THO. VIOLET.

To the right Honorable the Committee for Forraigne-affaires, *delivered to the Lord* VVhitlock *and Sir* VVilliam Maſſam.

May it pleaſe your Honors,

THE ſeventeenth of December, 1652. I *Tho. Violet* came into the Court of *Admiralty*, at the requeſt of the Commiſsioners for Duch prizes, to aſsiſt in behalf of the *Common-wealth*, againſt all prize-ſhips depending there, and had their Wa-

rant to authorize me therein, beſides your Honours Warant to aſsiſt concerning the ſilver-ſhips, *Sampſon*, *Salvadore* and *George*, in the Court of *Admiralty*, *I* produced my Warant, and delivered it in to the Judges in that behalfe.

That day there was appointed by the Court ſeventeene ſhips to be diſcharged, conteining three thouſand foure hundred tonns, being all richly laden with ſilver and merchandize, worth many hundred thouſand pounds; the Judges would diſcharge them, and though *I* ſhewed them many reaſons, as appeares in my booke formerly put forth, *fol.* 75. 76. 77. 78. yet ſome of the ſhips were diſcharged, and though *I* told them, that in my eye, in the face of the Court, there were about ten Merchants, who by combination with the people of the united Provinces, did colour the Duch prize-ſhips ſilver, and all ſorts of merchandize, yet ſome of the ſhips goods and merchandize were about the 17 of December diſcharged.

The twentith of December, 1652. I waited on the Committee of *Forraigne affaires*, and made them acquainted with what had paſſed in the *Admiraltie*, thereupon *I* was commanded by the honorable Committee, that what I had to preſent, I ſhould deliver to Doctor *Walker*, the like Order maſter *Thurloe* delivered mee from the *Councel* of *State*, and that thereupon the Judges of the *Admiraltie*, and Doctor *Walker* ſhould conſider of my Papers, and report their opinions to the Committee of *Forraigne affaires*; this Order *I* received from the Lord *Whitlock* and the Lord *Bradſhaw*.

Thereupon, becauſe I would take witneſſe what theſe Judges did, I deſired maſter *Edward Watkins* and maſter *Charnock* to goe along with mee to *Doctors Commons*, for that Doctor *Walker* and the Judges had appointed mee to conſider of all my Propoſitions,

and

and would take ſpeciall care, as Doctor *Stephens* ſaid in the buſineſſe, when we came at the day appointed which was about the twenty fourth of December, Mr. *Bacon* was out of towne, Doctor *Exton* not well or would not be ſpoken with, for *I* perceived he did not like my coming to him about the buſineſſe of the prize ſhips, and Silver in them, nor my ſtaying them.

Thereupon Doctor *Stevens* moved to put the reading of my Papers off till another day, *I* told Doctor *Walker* that, for my part, I ſaw there was ſuch proceedings in the *Admiraltie*, and the *Common-wealths* buſineſſe in the prize-ſhips ſtood upon ſuch a point that the *State* might be cozened of every penny in the prize-ſhips upon a day or twos delay, both all the ſilver, merchandize and ſhips, which were worth many hundred thouſand pounds, I told them though the Court had given them a diſcharge, yet God be thanked they weee not gone, and that I would make it appeare that a great part of thoſe prizes they had diſcharged were Duch goods, and the number in all then in *England* were about forty ſhips, according to my intelligence, and that the ſhips that were of the Hans-Townes were laden with ſeverall parcels of goods that belonged to *Holland*, and that the Commiſsioners for Duch prize-goods, had done well, and great ſervice for the *State*, in not obeying the decree of the court till the truth was found out, notwithſtanding their Decree the ſhips at preſent were all of them in their ſeverall Ports of this Nation, and could not get away by reaſon of the *States-Generall Imbargo*; and before the *Imbarg* ſhould bee taken off, *I* would make the *State* acquainted how the buſineſſe was mannaged about their prizes in the *Admiraltie*. *I* told doctor *Stevens* that the court of *Admiralty* had never ſo great a buſineſſe before them as the Silver and theſe prize-ſhips, thereupon doctor *Stevens* went in-

to doctor *Walkers* chamber, and *I* tooke maſter *Edward Watkins* and maſter *Charnock*, to bee my witneſſes, and maſter *Charnock* read over to them, all my papers, which tooke up more then two houres time, *I* was ſo weake with ſitting up ſeverall nights, that *I* was not able to reade them. When they were read, *I* asked doctor *Stevens* and doctor *Walker* what they thought, and whether they were not ſatisfied by my papers there read, and witneſſes, of the danger, dammage and miſchief this *Common-wealth* would ſuffer, if that theſe very ſhips, which the court of *Admiralty* had diſcharged had gone into *Holland*; and both doctor *Stevens* and doctor *Walker*, looking earneſtly one upon another, doctor *Stevens* ſaid to doctor *Walker*, what ſhall wee doe in this buſineſſe? *I* told them that *I* humbly conceived it did concern the court to conſider well what they did in that buſineſse eyther of the ſilver or other prizes, and that whoever had a hand in the diſcharge of the ſhips, *I* would call them to an account in *Parliament*, if they let one of the prize ſhips, or the ſilver in them goe, till my witneſses were examined, and thereupon *I* delivered a liſt of my witneſses to doctor *Walker*, and told him *I* would ſit up night and day, till *I* had finiſhed drawing up *I*ntergatories, ſo that they would aſsigne me a cleark or two of the Court; they aſsigned mee maſter *Bud*, the *States* Proctor; *I* asked doctor *Walker* whether he did not know moſt of my witneſſes, for they were the principall Merchants in *England* that trade for *Spayne* and *Holland*, hee ſaid he did; thereupon *I* told him that *I* muſt have the viewing of the Intergatories and liberty to add more witneſſes after the Clearke had put them into a forme, and ſorting them to ſuch and ſuch men as I know can ſpeake to the particular points; I told them I muſt have a view of all bills of lading, and other Papers maſter *Bud* or the Regiſter had, that this was a buſineſſe I had beene for many

yeeres

yeeres verſed in the like kinde in the *Starr-chamber* againſt the tranſporters of gold; I told them of many defects in the proceedings of the Court, and that the *States* not mending the proceedings in the *Admiralty*, had given occaſion to many duch-skippers to cozen this Nation of millions of money for want of a ſtrict Rule in the court of *Admiralty* in that behalf.

Thereupon Doctor *Walker* replyed, the diſcharge of the ſhips was none of his judgement, the Judges muſt looke to that, hee had looked faithfully, to the uttermoſt, as far as he could by his place; Doctor *Stevens* deſired doctor *Walker* to goe along with him to the *Councel* of *ſtate*, and that there they would deſire the *Councel* that the generall *Imbargo* might remain, till the court of *Admiraltie* had made a review, and examined the witneſſes that I delivered into the court; and that I ſhould have a view of all Papers concerning the Prizes that were depending in the court of *Admiraltie*.

But Dr. *Walker* reply'd, that thoſe that had adjudged the diſcharge of the ſhips were to looke to the ſtay of them, and that he perceived that their judgement for the diſcharge would be called unto accompt, and that therefore it was beſt for Doctor *Stevens* who had a hand in the diſcharge, to goe preſently to the *Councel* of *ſtate*, which hee did, with maſter *Edward Watkins*, maſter *Charnock* and my ſelfe; where Doctor *Stevens* deſired the *Councel*, that afternoone, that the generall *Imbargoe* might be continued; *and Ordered my Witneſſes in the meane time to bee examined; how well that Order hath beene performed, reſts now under examination*, and Doctor *Walker* delivered formerly ſome of my Papers to maſter *Bud*, where I preſt with much earneſtneſſe his carefull diſpatch of my Papers. This diſcourſe was in Doctor *Walkers* Chamber about the twenty fourth of December 1652. in the preſence of

maſter *Edward Watkins*, maſter *Charnock* and my ſelfe; and doctor *Walker* told doctor *Stevens* hee did ever thinke at one time or other the *State* would have a review, and that made him ever carefull nothing ſhould lie at his doore, for hee would cleere himſelfe.

The names of ſeverall witneſſes *I* delivered in to doctor *Walker* and maſter *Bud* to examine for the diſcovery of the duch prize ſhips, preſented to him about the 24. of December 1652.

James Younricks	*Arnold Brames*
Daniel Skinner	*Vincent De la Bar*
Abraham Stock	*Tho. De la Vall*
John Perrot	*Tho. Waade*
Mr. Buddier	*Edward Ranger*

Dover Factors for the duch Merchants of the united Provinces, to examine them about theſe prize-ſhips depending in the *Admiraltie*, the ſixteenth of December 1652.

Adam Laurence	*Maſter Ruſhiott*
Abraham Dolens	*Antony Fernando*
Pompey Calendrine	*Michaell Caſtell*
Anthony Ferrence	*William de Fiſher*
Maſter Curcellis	*Giles Vandeput*
Abraham Culline	*Peter Vandeput*
Deric Hoſt	*John Delens*
Maſter Beck	*Tho. Curtoys*
Maſter Sion	*Lucas Lucie*
James Staniere	*Jacob Jacobs*
Mr. Depeſter	*James Bove*
Salomon Morris	*John Saſſe*
John Vanderberg	*Francis Sayon*
Lucas Jacobs	*William Vanburge.*

Merchants

Merchants, moſt of them ſtrangers, dealing for the people of the united-Provinces, as their Factors living all in *London*, to examine them about theſe prize ſhips.

Richard King.	*Iſaac le Gaye.*
Nathan. Wright.	*Hugh Sowdon.*
Tho. Fennings.	*Tho. Boone.*
Roger Kilvert.	*John Tirvil.*
John Bland.	Mr *Pickeringe.*
Stephen and *Richard* *Slaney.*	*Francis Lenthall.*
	Thomas Butler.
Daniell Fairvacks.	*Moyſis Goodiar.*

Theſe are all eminent Engliſh Merchants trading for *Spain*, to examine them about theſe ſhips and the cuſtomes of *Spain*, concerning the regiſtring of all ſilver and other particulars of theſe Prizes.

Ralph Colline.	*Tho. Rich.*
Charles Vale ſen.	Mr. *Long* and his 2 ſons.
Benj. Stoman.	*Charles Vale* jun.
William Dunſton.	*John Perine.*
Mr. *Culline.*	The *Surgion* of the *Sampſon*
Edward Aſh.	*Rich. Scott.*
Alderman Dethick.	*Bernard Clauſon.*
Mr. *Follie.*	*Philip Brown.*

Merchants, Mariners of ſeverall places, and others aboard the Ships *Sampſon* and *George*, to examine about the ſilver and Prize-ſhips:

Tho. Viner.	*Samuell Moore.*
Alexander Hoult.	*George Day.*
Rob. Cordwell.	*George Snell.*

Goldſmiths in *Lombard-ſtreete*, that uſually buy the gold and ſilver of the Merchants; to examine them about theſe ſhips, and ſilver they bought about Chriſtmas laſt, and of whom, and if they will tell you the truth, then it will be found that almoſt all the mony coyned about December and January laſt, hath been ſtoln and conveyed a ſhore out of the prize-ſhips *Peter*, *Sampſon*, *Salvadore*, *George* and *Michael*, to the great dammage of this *State*.

John Foſter, *John De la Bar*, *John Daye*. } { *Gregorie Wilſhire*, *John Baker*.

Authorized Brokers that deale on the *Exchange* for monies.

James Hoore, *Thomas Burch* } *Clearks of the Mint.*

Edw. Watkins, late head ſearcher of the Port of *London*

May it pleaſe your Honors,

THeſe witneſſes I delivered unto Doctor *Walker* the day aboveſaid, and I finde not one witneſſe produced in Court by doctor *Walker*, for the ſtay of *Otho George* his ſhip *Sampſon*, *Salvadore* or *George*, and the reſt of the ſilver-ſhips, but what were my witneſſes, which I delivered in to doctor *Walker*, and Maſter *Bud* the Proctor, and Maſter *Doreſlaus* before they were examined in Court, I delivered to doctor *Walker* ſeveral Papers according to my Order from the *Councel* of *State* about the ſpaniſh-ſilver, and the waies uſed in other Countries, which Rules and practiſe of Merchants I had from many eminent traders from ſeveral parts of this Nation, and from beyond

yond the Seas, beſides my owne experience; doctor *Walker* all the dayes of his triall, made uſe of them to the full, and all the duch Merchants ſtorme at mee, and ſome of them threaten my life, as being the only inſtrument for the ſtay of the ſilver, and I am confident doctor *VValker* cannot deny it, but theſe Papers I delivered unto him, ſhewed him more the preſent cuſtomes and uſages of Merchants beyond Sea, upon the fraudulent practiſes of Merchants of this age, then all his bookes of the civill lawe, for the old bookes of that lawe diſcover not the hundreth part of the preſent tricks and practiſes of Merchants in this age, eſpecially ſuch cunning merchants as the duch now are, and doctor *VValker* did confeſſe at ſeverall times both before maſter *Edward VVatkins*, maſter *Charnock* and my ſelfe, that for many fraudes and ſubtleties of the duch Merchants and skippers, ſet downe in my Papers, their waies they have to cozen the *State* of theſe duch prizes, there were a great many fraudes there in my paper diſcovered, which hee beleeved are daily uſed; which by the preſent Rules of the *Admiralty* the Court could take no notice of, for they went by a Rule, and if the Parliament would have thoſe frauds prevented for the future, he thought it very neceſſary that I ſhould preſent the ſame to the *State*, and that an Act ſhould be made to prevent it, eſpecially during this time of War; and doctor *Walker* did not deny but that many duch prize-ſhips, till the *State* enlarged the Rules of the Court of *Admiralty*, have and might be cleered, and after goe for Holland; and that if it pleaſed the Parliament to give ſtricter Rules for the Court of *Admiralty* during this War, and make it an Act of Parliament, then no man could or ſhould make or preſſe the law further for the *Common-wealths* advantage then he would, and that I ſhould ſee; and hee did order maſter *Bud* to let me ſee what writings and proceedings hee had in

this buſineſſe of the prize-ſhips and ſilver.

But as I honor doctor *Walker* for his great paines and care, I doe as much blame maſter *Bud* for his carriage, for when I firſt entred on this buſineſſe, ſome friends of mine told me they had a jealous eye of maſter *Bud*, and indeede I did ſeverall times tell doctor *Walker*, that I would complain of maſter *Bud* when I ſaw time, for ſeveral daies in the Court ſome times Letters not tranſlated, ſomtimes Records not to be found, and upon my complaints doctor *Walker* told maſter *Bud* of it in the Court of *Admiralty* before the Judges, and ſaid that he ſaw the buſineſſe of the ſilver ſhips might come to a review by my proſecution, and hee would not have maſter *Buds* miſcarriage in the buſineſs of the ſilver lie at his dore, and wiſhed maſter *Bud* to mend for the future.

And although doctor *Walker* appointed maſter *Bud* to adviſe with mee about my Papers, and to let mee ſee what Bills of lading and Papers I would, concerning the prize-ſhips, ſuch as maſter *Bud* had in his cuſtody, concerning the ſilver prize-ſhips, and all other prizes depending in the *Admiraltie*, the ſixteenth of December 1652. yet the ſaid maſter *David Bud* never did let me come to have a view of any of the bills of lading or Papers in his cuſtodie, though hee appointed me many times to have a ſight of them; and becauſe I would be neere him, I tooke lodgings not far from his houſe, in *Biſhopſgate-ſtreete*, and continue them to this day.

May it pleaſe your honors, if I had ſeene the Bills of lading and bookes of Entries, and all other Papers, according to doctor *Walkers* direction, I had ſtopped many a ſhip that hath beene diſcharged, but that would have hindred ſome Proctors of their fees, for I am credibly informed, it is ordinary for the Proctors to put downe in their Bills, beſides ordinary charges, 40. l. 50. l. and 100. l. upon the cleering

ring of a Prize-ſhip to the Merchants and owners of the ſhips.

I ſay if it be not prevented for the future, it will bring great ruine on this Nation.

The State ſhould finde out (I humbly conceive) by diligent enquiry, the true reaſon, wherefore ſo many Duch Prize-ſhips have been let ſlip out of their fingers, after they have been brought into this Common-wealth with ſo much loſs of blood and charge, and blown away in a breath, for the profit of particular men.

I humbly deſire Captain *Biſhop*'s Letters from beyond Seas, may be produced at the Councell of State or Parliament, and there you will ſee what work hath been done by ſome in truſt in the Admiralty.

May it pleaſe your Honors to avoid that I ſhould not bee inſtrumentall to ſpoil this trade, Maſter *Bud* the Proctor, though he hath had order and himſelf promiſed me ſeverall times, yet he would never ſhew me any of the bills of lading, or papers concerning any ſhips depending in the Admiralty the 16 *Decemb.* 1652. though I have been with him, and ſent my man to him ſeverall times, to have ſeen how many ſhips there were under arreſt in the Admiralty the 16 *December* 1652, he hath promiſed me twenty times, but never performed.

When *I* went to ſee your Prize-ſhips, between *London* & *Wollage*, there went with me to ſee in what condition they were in, Mr. *Paul Smith*, Cap. *Brock*, Mr. *Long* and his two ſonns, all three Ship-Carpenters; and wee looking both on the inſide and outſide of the Duch prize-ſhips, we found many of them rent and torn, which by the Law, if they fought in the channel of *England* againſt the States ſhips, they are prize; and for this *I* refer my ſelf to Maſter *Reyly*'s Records in the Tower; and thereupon I made my appeal in Court, in the behalf of the Common-

wealth, and have a great many preſidents out of the Records in the Tower, upon the like caſe it hath been done by others, to which Records *I* humbly refer my ſelf. And *I* have cauſed the copies to bee atteſted under Mr. *Rylies* hand; he can ſatisfie you what pains and charges I have been at in that buſineſſe, yet ſeverall of theſe ſhips have been diſcharged, and they are dayly laboring to diſcharge the Morning-ſtar, a ſhip laden with about fourty thouſand pounds in ſilver, which fought in your channel. And finding your Court of Admiralty would diſcharge many of theſe prize-ſhips, *I* appealed in the behalf of the Common-wealth, and craved reſpit of Judgement till my witneſſes were examined : The like *I* did for the ſilver ſhips *Sampſon*, *Salvádor* and *George*, and all the thirteen ſhips which *I* was aboard on by order and intreaty of the Commiſsioners for Duch Prizes the 14 *December* 1652. The Duch Prize Commiſsioners had under their charge a great many other ſhips beſides theſe, about fourty at the leaſt. *I* humbly deſire the whole buſineſſe may come under a ſtrict examination before a Committee of the Councell of State or Parl. *I* humbly deſire alſo, the Cõmiſsioners may be ordered to give me a particular accompt what ſhips were in their cuſtodie the 16 *December*, the Maſters names, and where they now remain, and what number of theſe ſhips are diſcharged out of this Nation; unto whom; and the time when : And when *I* ſee a perfect accompt from them, I ſhall humbly acquaint your honors how your buſineſſe now ſtands. It is very much for the ſafety of this Nation, for the State to keep a ſtrict accompt of this buſineſſe in the Admiralty, as your honors will finde upon a ſtrict examination; for if the State had kept a ſtrict eye on all the ſhips that have paſſed out of their hands ſince *Auguſt* laſt, and examined the bottom of this buſineſſe, they would have had millions of trea-

ſure

ſure in their cuſtody that is now in *Holland*; and the people of the united Provinces would have been neceſsitated to ſeek for peace, becauſe they could not otherwaies maintain trade, and without it they cannot ſubſiſt: there muſt be ſome ſtrange connivence with ſome of your officers in the Admiraltie, or elſe this miſchief had been prevented, if all men intruſted had been honeſt. *I* pray ſee my book *fol.*99. Theſe things *I* humbly ſubmit to your honors.

THO. VIOLET.

To the right Honorable, the Lord Bradſhaw, *theſe humbly preſent.*

May it pleaſe your Honor,

I Have left with Colonel *Harbert Morley* this day my Petition to the Councell of State againſt *Otho George*: I humbly deſire your honor to take notice, if the Counſell doe not take ſome preſent order in it, to conſider what encouragement my ſelf or any man that ſerves the Common-wealth in the diſcovery of the Ships, ſilver and Merchandize now brought in as Duch prize ſhall have when they ſhall be aſſaulted in the ſtreets with Stilettoes and Poniards from Captain *Otho George*, for being inſtrumentall to doe the State ſervice: *I* have been adviſed by ſeverall friends for this eight dayes, not to come to the Exchange or Admiralty, to avoid that which *Otho George*, within theſe few dayes, offered to doe to another man (the Surgeon of *Otho George* ſhip) which hath not been, nor can be the hundred part ſo inſtrumentall to intitle the State to the ſilver and goods in the Prize-ſhips as I have been. The Surgeon of *Otho George*'s ſhip hath diſcovered the ſilver in the ſhips to

be Duch-mens, and *Otho George*'s bills of lading counterfet: *I* pray let the examinations taken about this buſineſs be ſent for to the Councell, and that will inform you at large.

I humbly deſire your honors juſt aſsiſtance for a ſpeedy Order about this my Petition, it being of very great concernment to the Common-wealth, to take a ſpeedy order in it, to puniſh *Otho George* and reſtrain his inſolence.

Your Honors humble ſervant,

25 *March* 1653. THO. VIOLET.

I have heard about *June* laſt the Surgeon is dead that accuſed *Otho George*. there is no queſtion but ſom had order to give him an Italian figg; but before he died he was examined before the Lord Mayor, and in the Admiralty; his confeſsion againſt *Otho George* is upon Record, about the ſilver in all the Prize-ſhips that came together from St. *Lucars* in *Spain*.

To the right Honorable, the Councell of State,
THO. VIOLET

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioner having by order of this Councel aſsiſted in the Admiralty againſt the ſhips *George*, *Sampſon*, and the *Salvador*, and ſeverall other ſhips; And that the Court of Admiralty hath judged the *onus probandi* to be put upon the pretenders for the ſaid ſhips and lading.

And that ſince your Petitioner hath been engaged in this ſervice, your Petitioner hath made ſeveral diſcoveries of great concernment, which are ſo large they cannot be contained in a Petition, and the Councells

Councels time ſo precious, as your Petitioner humbly conceives that the whol Councell cannot ſpend with conveniency ſo much time as will be requiſite to take an exact account of ſo weighty a buſines.

Your Petitioner humbly deſires your honors to appoint a Committee to take a particular account of your Petitioner, what he hath done ſince the 16. Dec. 1652. in this buſines, and that the Committee may be impowred to enquire concerning all the aforeſaid prize-ſhips, and what obſtructions hath beene or are depending in the Court of *Admiralty*, and to conſider of ſome effectual waies for removing them.

And whereas there is no particular and true account what gold, ſilver or Merchandize is remayning on ſhipboard the *Samſon*, *Salvador* and *George*, and ſeveral other ſhips, ſo that by this means there can bee no account kept by the *State* of what treaſure is a ſhip board, whereby the *State* hath received much damage, and will daily receive more, & that the ſecurity of 0000 l given into the *Admiralty* for the ſilver and goods a ſhipboard, is of no conſideration to the treaſure aboard the aforeſaid ſhips, & as long as the ſilver remaines aboard the *State* ſhall never find what ſilver and gold ſhall be clandeſtinely ſtolne and imbezeled away, and if it be proved, the *State* ſhall only have parchment for the damage in ſtead of monies, the perſons bound being duch factors, ſo that if the *State* will be ſecure for the future, there is no other courſe but to land all the Silver, and keep it in ſom ſafe place.

And whereas there are ſome of the commodities a ſhipboard, as *Tobaccoes* and other Merchandize that are periſhable, that your honors would appoint a Committee to examine that buſineſſe, and to take order that no Bales or Fardels, upon any pretence, may be diſcharged till they be carefully viewed in the *Cuſtom-houſe*, and a true and exact Inventory taken both by the Commiſsioners and Farmers, theſe Merchan-

dize, being generally falſe packed in the *Indies*.

That whereas your Petitioner hath beene the firſt, and principall Inſtrument to diſcover all the fraudes of *Otho George*, in his Bills of lading, and ſeveral other abuſes and practiſes, concerning divers prize-ſhips in the Court of *Admiraltie*, whereby your Petitioner hath contracted a deadly hatred againſt him, by the ſaid *Otho George*; your Petitioner hath beene enforced, for the ſafety and preſervation of his body, to ſweare the Peace againſt *Otho George*, the twenty fourth day of March, 1652. before maſter Recorder of *London*, and is an humble ſuitor to your Honours that ſuch farther directions may bee given in that behalfe, that your Petitioner may be ſecured from being murthered, for making this diſcovery againſt the aforeſaid ſhips, your Petitioner having for ſeverall dayes abſented himſelfe, both from the *Exchange*, and Court of *Admiraltie* to avoid the miſchief.

And if the *State* will not take ſome ſpeciall order againſt *Otho George*, for his aſſaulting, and offering to ſtab any ſuch Perſons that have, or ſhall bee Inſtrumentall in doing the *State* ſervice in this particular aboveſaid. Your Petitioner leaves it to your conſideration, whether it bee poſsible to have your buſineſſe done?

And your Petitioner ſhall pray, &c.

This Petition is referred to the Comittee for *Forraign affaires*.

26. *March*, 1653.

Mr.

Mr. Iſaac Doreſlaws,

SIR you ſhall finde by theſe Papers here inclo-ſed, the true reaſon wherefore I doe not come to the Exchange or the Court of Admiralty as yet, till I am ſecured againſt the force of *Otho George* upon my perſon; you know what I told you at the Still-yard about him; *I* told the ſame things to my Lord *Bradſhaw* 16 dayes agoe of *Otho George*.

Though I am not amongſt you, I have a carefull eye of the buſineſs, and by my intelligence ſee when *I* am abſent. My good friend, that is an Art will coſt you many years ſtudie before you can attain to it, and is not to be done but by many hands and at great expence: I pray let me intreat you that you would be very carefull, that when this buſineſs concerning the Prize-ſhips comes under an examination, that nothing may reſt at your dore that is not like your ſelf: you have many temptations, and I had rather loſe my right hand, then you ſhould doe anything unworthy of your ſelf in this buſineſſe: *I* have good ground for what I ſpeak, I give you this hint out of the affection *I* ever bore you: Truly I am promiſed, from ſome you know well that are in power, this buſineſs of the Prize-ſhips ſhall have a ſtrict examination; and when it comes to accompt, I know it will light heavy upon ſome that think they daunce in a net: I am not idle but have a ſtrict eye on this buſineſs of the ſilver; you know by ſad experience what it was in your fathers neglecting and ſlighting the advice of having a ſpeciall care of his perſon; and truly I know this very *Otho George* hath been in irons in *Spain* for his mad pranks; and though I know there can be nothing done but by Gods permiſsion, yet *I* will not tempt God, when *I* have had certain admonitions from my ſpeciall friends to prevent the giving of an occaſion of meeting with *Otho George* for the preſent.

I have taken all lawfull waies, and ſhall ſee further

what the Councell will doe in it. About my eſtate which we ſpake lately of, you may reſt aſſured I will not neglect this oportunitie of getting ſatisfaction for it out of this diſcovery, and that I expect and deſire your juſt aſsiſtance in it. You deſired me to ſend you the particulars of what hath been taken from me, which *I* herewith ſend you: *I* ask nothing but my own, which is eleven thouſand pounds, which hath been unduly taken from me theſe ten years paſt, and *I* could never get a tryall. If you ſhould ever have ſuch a value taken from you, you would, I beleeve, think as I doe, that it ought not to be taken from you without a legall tryall; pray ſend me word where I ſhall meet with you, and the houre; and *I* will come and ſpeake with you; for I deſire your adviſe about ſom buſines, and I am confident you will give it me as freely as ever I gave you; which was ever to the beſt of my skill: I pray remember my ſervice to Doctor *Walker*, and tell him the reaſon why I doe not, as yet, come to *Doctors Commons*.

My Petition, which *I* herewith ſend you, is referred to the Committee of Forraign Affairs; you being acquainted with them all, *I* ſhall deſire your friendly aſsiſtance therein.

your loving friend

25 *March* 1653.

Tho. Violet.

These following Papers I left with my Lord Bradshaw, *S*r James Harrington, *and* M*r* Allen, *about the* 6th *of* Februarie 1652.

May it pleas your Lordship!

Most humbly present unto your Lordship these papers enclosed; that your Lordship and the Council of State may see in what a posture your business stand's with som of your Officer's of the Admiraltie: truly my good Lord, the State shall finde it was a strange providence that I came in to bee engag'd in this business about your silver prises; for upon all the papers and witnesses, and other transactions it will bee proved clearly, I, and my Instruments have saved the State the silver in the ships *Sampson*, *Salvador*, and *George*.

If your Lordship shall have the patience to read my letter to M*r* *Bud* your proctor for the Common-wealth dated the 24th of *December* last; you will see I found him out at the first, and truly it hath cost mee a great deal of time to track his actions; God bee thanked I discover'd it timely or elf som publick Ministers of forrein Princes, and M*r* *Bud* with M*r* *Roe* the States Solicitor might have served the Common-wealth, as som fencers do in a prize, make a great deal of noise with drums and flags about the Streets to draw companie, but the agreement was made with the fencers how they shall share the monie.

It is a strange posture your whole business stand's in, in the Court of Admiraltie; when I see a convenient time, many dark deeds shall com to light, that som men

will wonder how it is posible I should ever get Instruments to fathom the bottom ont.

A great many things which I intended to discover, must not bee seen, or known, till I see the skie clear; for I find great divisions even in your own counsels about those prizes.

I only rely on your Lordships faithful promis before Mr. *Tho Westrope*, that you would see I should have just dealing, and full satisfaction from the State for my service in this business concerning the silver ships; *Samson*, *Salvador*, and *George*.

My heart ake's to see what water run's by your mill, and you never know it; the truth is all will bee naught, and com to a sudden mischief, if it bee not speedily prevented: there must bee men of *experience* emploied as well as *zeal*; for there may bee many godly men that have not *experience* to act in this business; and where you employ one to keep an eye on this business, you will finde ten of the ablest men in *London*, will bee little enough, and you would get a hundred times more then the charge.

My Lord! you have had ships worth many a hundred thousand pounds slipt through your Fleet, and som of them had convoy to *Dunkirk* and *Ostend*, and all the goods carried to *Amsterdam*; you have had *Hamburgers*, and other *Hance-Town* ships had convoys from your Fleet, upon pretence they were free ships; and after they have parted, unloaded themselvs in the Harbors of the people of the *United-Provinces*; I pray ask Captain *George Bishop* what information hee hath received from *Holland*, concerning several ships discharged by the Court of Admiraltie.

May it plea[s] your Honor, there are many hoggs in the Corn at *London*, and ships so strangely slipt away, that your Commissioners for Prize-goods, and many others wonder at the passages. I say I pray God all bee right. I humbly desire your Honor to pardon mee, if I speak

after

after ſuch a way to make an Impreſsion, that the State ought to have more eys than they imploy in this buſineſs, and to make ſom exemplary for miſcarriage in their buſineſs; and to watch well to your Court of Admiraltie, and all their Officers.

I know this will, and hath got mee envie; but when I have once undertaken a buſineſs I will bee faithful to my truſt; it hath ever been my rule, and I will never alter, when my word is once paſt, and your Honor hath laid your command on mee, I ſhall rather die then break my faith with the State.

My moſt humble ſuit to your Lordſhip is, that you would do in this buſineſs, I here preſent unto you, in that manner that the Common-Wealth may bee ſecured from future dammage; and ſuch emploied as may not be ſo intimate with forrein Ambaſſador's Secretaries, as Mr *Bud* and Mr *Roe*. I moſt humbly leav it all at your Honor's feet, and remain

Februarie 5th 1652.

Your Lordſhip's humble Servant

THO. VIOLET.

Mr Watkins!

SIr! I ſhould bee glad to ſee you: for I am not well, and I am afraid I have gotten a feavor with vexing. Truly you know what great pains and vaſt expence I have been at, to bring this buſineſs about to make this diſcoverie of the prize-ſhips, to intitle the State unto the Silver in the ſhips *Samſon*, *Salvador*, *George*, hoping now to have con-

vinced all my greateſt Enemies both of my ſufferings and alſo my zeal to ſerv the Common-Wealth in this buſineſs, and in any other they ſhall employ mee in.

I have delivered to the Council of State, and to my Lord *Bradſhaw*, and *Doctor Walker*, ſeveral papers with all my witneſſes, beeing the greateſt merchants in this Nation, and ſeveral perſons aboard the ſhips, and by their clear teſtimonie, by God's aſsiſtance I will do the work, which I am as ſure the State will carry by my papers, as I am ſure I now write to you, if that they pleaſ but to proceed effectually in the buſineſs, even by the ſtrict rules of the Civil Law, and not give away their right, as there are ſom great ones would have them to do, and without my papers and witneſs they could never have don it. I finde that *Bud* the Proctor had not in the Court of Admiraltie Mr *Calandrin's* letter tranſlated, and ſo beeing in high Dutch Doctor *Walker* could not make any uſe of it at that preſent, and about a week ago I found *Bud* and *Roe* the proctor and ſolicitor of the Common-wealth a feaſting together with ſom forrein Agents, I have made my Lord *Bradſhaw* acquainted with it: if *Bud* had don ſo much in the State of *Venice* I know hee would have loſt his head, now at this time, hee having all the States writings in his hands and knowing all the ſecrets of this great buſineſs. But, by God's aſsiſtance I will prevent him in his deſigns, or any other that goeth about to diſcharge the ſilver. There are many great heads and hands a working to coſen the State upon craftie ſlie pretences. I finde the learned Doctor *Walker* hath ſerved the *Common-Wealth* in this great buſineſs with much integrity and care and learning, and a great deal of pains (as much as a man could poſsible do.) And would I could ſay ſo of ſom others imployed in this buſines: the truth is ſom men in power juggle and they have a great temptation for it by the *Parlaments* not taking order to land the ſilver in ſecure hands, the which is now aboard the prize ſhips, the Merchants by their

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inſtruments have ſtollen aſhore many a ſcore of thouſand pounds; a great part is brought into the mint ſince Chriſtmas: and all that will bee found out, if the Goldſmiths were ſtrictly examined who they bought this ſilver of. Truly there hath lately little, or no ſilver bin brought into the mint, but what hath been ſtollen out of theſe prize-ſhips and the pretenders to this ſilver and prizes having got ſuch a vaſt ſum of mony to ſcatter, without the State keep a ſtrict eye, it will blinde a great many, I ſee it too apparently: and if this buſineſs have not a powerful hand over it, to prevent ſuch abuſes as have been formerly practiſed, I know in what condition the States prizes will bee in.

Sir! I delivered my Lord *Bradſhaw* in December laſt my papers concerning this great buſineſs upon his faithful promiſs that I ſhould bee juſtly dealt withal about my eſtate, and that beſides I ſhould receiv a good Reward for this Service. I have copies of all my papers delivered unto him and the Council. I proteſt before God no man in *England* ſhould have had my firſt papers touching the prize-ſilver but his Honor, and I do chiefly rely on him.

It griev's mee much to ſee ſom Merchants ſo deſperately mad againſt mee for diſcovering this buſineſs, and at *White-Hall* ſom of the Council think's not of the greatneſs of the ſervice and my vaſt charge and hazzard I run. For doing this buſineſs I have made many of my intimate friends my deadly foes: for every man I ſpeak with at the Exchange tell's mee I was the only cauſ of ſtaying this ſilver or elſ it had all been diſcharged. Truly what they ſay in this particular is true; for nothing yet was ever produced in the Court of Admiraltie about this ſilver but what my witneſſes I gave in to Doct. *Walker* have, or could have ſpoke unto: for from ſeveral at *Dover* I had notice of the State's Letter to *Dewittee* his Commiſsion to convoy all *Hambergers* and *Lubeckers*, and to guard them from the *Engliſh*; becauſ theſe *Hambergers*,

were loaden with silver for the accompts of the Merchants of *Amsterdam*, as you will see by my letter I formerly writ to Mr *Delabar*.

I protest seriously it make's mee stand amaz'd to see what is likely to fall on this Nation; God help poor *England*, it is divided and fals among their great counsellors, and many of them carrie Dutch and Spanish hearts in English bodies. I finde som great ones of the Hous could eat mee without salt, for discovering and staying this silver, and use all their endeavors to fling a slighting and contempt on mee, with som of their fellow counsellors of State, and in the Parlament: I will tell you who they are by word of mouth, when I see you. They shall finde at long running I shall see their heels trip't up, I am afraid som great ones love Spanish Gold and silver, though it bee conveighed unto them by a Dutch hand.

Sir! my Lord *Bradshaw* told mee before M *Tho. Westrope*, that there was som great ones would hang me if they could for staying of this silver, but it was not in their power: for hee would to his uttermost, do mee right, for which great favor I did give him humble thanks. I pray present my humble service to my Lord *Bradshaw*, and tell him, next unto God, I rely on him for to do mee justice, that I may have my Estate pay'd mee which hath been taken from mee, or the value of it out of this monie I shall caus to bee brought in, to the State, out of the prize-ships and silver, which I have caused to bee staied in *December* last.

Feb. 8 1652. *Your true friend*

THO. VIOLET.

To my good friend *Edward Watkins*
Esquire at the Post-hous in *Ab-*
Church-Lane London.

May

May it pleaſ your Honors!

I Have preſumed to preſent you with this petition, and papers: and my humble deſire unto you is, that you would do mee right and juſtice. I was required by ſom of the Council to preſent my deſires to your Honors about my Eſtate: for they conceiv it is all the reaſon in the world I ſhould have my Eſtate, or the ful value of it.

You will ſee by my particulars, I have had *eleven thouſand pounds* taken from mee undulie, and contrarie to the law: and though I have ever ſince my coming out of the tower, had a petition in Parlament to have releif, I could never as yet have right. I have by all waies and means ſtudied night and daie to preſent my ſelf to the world that I was ever in all my actions loial to the intereſt of Parlament: in purſuance of that, I have don the Parlament many eminent and faithful ſervices, as is well known to all the Commiſsioners of the Council of Trade, the Committee of the Mint, and many members of Parlament and Council of State: and now in *December* laſt I ſtaied the Silver-ſhips and many other prize-ſhips at my vaſt and great expence. For my doing this buſineſs for the Common-wealth I have at once loſt many friends amongſt the Merchants and others, ſpent great ſums of monie, and in hazard of my life. If this bee not ſufficient teſtimonie to reſtore mee to my Eſtate, and to have a good Reward, I ſhall humbly leav it to the conſideration of your Lordſhip and all good men. I have in print but given the world a little hint, how your buſineſses in the Admiraltie have been and are mannaged, and ſo for the Mint; but if the State knew throughly how things ſtand in their Admiraltie-Court, and how their treaſure at *Gold-ſmith's-Hall*,

Worceſter-Houſ, their Cuſtoms, Exciſe, and Mint-buſineſſes have been managed and is to this daie, they would ſay it were time to look about them.

The truth of it is, had I been imployed, and impowred ever ſince the beginning of *Auguſt* 1652 to have looked after all the prize-ſhips and had had a moderate allowance for my intelligence, I would have ſaved a great many hundred thouſand pounds, that you have let gon out of your hands, (and is at this daie in *Holland*) whereby this Nation hath been unexpreſsably abuſed, which without God's mercie will prove fatal.

May it pleaſ your Honors! Let the hazard, envie, and blame bee never ſo great: nay though it coſt mee my life and all I had in the world, I would diſcover unto your Honors the deſign that was laid to cozen the the State of the ſilver in the prize-ſhips.

For doing this ſervice in ſtaying the ſilver I have found juſt what I expected to the ful: for many of the Merchants in *London*, Officers of the Admiraltie, and ſom others ſpout reviling words at mee, as a whale doth water, and ſom of them have not ſcrupled to threaten my life: and they are skilful at it both by poiſon, or poniard: they are people that have lived in Countries, where for a little piece of monie ſuch things are uſually don.

I moſt humbly confeſs were I not ſatisfied in my conſcience, that there was a neceſsitie by God's providence which put mee on to make this diſcovery, I ſhould not have don it. For I feel it, I have raiſed againſt mee by doing it many hundred enemies.

May it pleaſe your Honors! I have ſpoken with divers of the Councill of State; and they wiſhed mee to put in my humble propoſitions, and therefore I moſt humbly preſent them to your Honors, humbly deſiring your Honors advice, and aſsiſtance in this weightie buſineſs that I might bee iuſtly, and fairly dealt with, about theſe Prize-Ships, and the ſilver in them.

My

My moſt humble ſuit to the Council of State is, that out of all theſe Ships that I made a Proteſt againſt their delivery, in the Court of Admiraltie, and out of the ſhips *Samſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*, I may, inreward for my diſcoverie and charge of intelligence reciev all my Eſtate which hath been taken from mee to the value of the ſum of *eleven thouſand pounds*; which is but juſt my own monies, which I have had for ten years unduly kept from mee, as appear's by the particulars hereafter following.

With this my humble Petition I have made ſeveral Members of Parlament, and of the Council acquainted; and they hold, that I deſerv a farr greater Reward for doing this ſervice: for here I do the State the greateſt ſervice that ever was don in *England* by any man of my condition: I bring unto the State neer *four hundred thouſand pounds*, at this conjuncture of time, in ſilver, of our Enemies monie; which, if it had not been for mee, the State had been cozened of it; I alſo diſcovered a fraud and myſterie of ſom Merchants, which, if it had continued, would have endangered a ruin of this Nation.

The Dutch at one time, before I diſcovered the frauds to the State, did get out of the Parlament's hands Eleven hundred thouſand pounds in ſilver, which wee had once in our cuſtodie ſince laſt Auguſt, *and now it is all in* Holland. *For this my ſervice to the State I have brought on my ſelf many Enemies; ſo that now if I ſhould not have juſt dealing from the State, and my Eſtate reſtored, or the value of it, I have by this action for the Common-wealth, made my life bitter, and uncomfortable unto mee every way, and it will for ever diſcourage any to ſerv you upon the like occaſion.*

My Lord! I do the State this ſervice, and ask not one pennie, but to have my own again, which hath been unduly taken from mee, as aforeſaid, upon falſ pretences, and I could never get a trial, as is well known unto your Honor. But ſom of the Members of Parlament when

I petitioned for a Trial even by Marſhal Law, replied, *if I had been guiltie, I ſhould never need to have petitioned for a Trial; I ſhould have had one without petitioning.* A fearful and ſad thing, to jeſt mee out of my whole Eſtate; they not remembring the rule, *do as you would bee don to.*

May it pleaſ your Honor! For God's ſake conſider what I ſay; there is none in *England* of my condition ever did *England*, in any age, ſo great a ſervice, as I have don, in this very particular, about the Dutch prize-ſhips; and ſhall not my faith, and true love to my Countrie at ſuch a conjuncture of time, bee, by ſuch as you are, whom God hath ſet at the Helm, looked on and cheriſhed? I am confident God will never ſuffer the State to commit ſuch a ſin of ingratitude.

I dare ſay I have convinced the greateſt Enemies I have in England by deceiving their expectations, they little thinking THO. VIOLET could or would have don *the Parlament* this ſervice, I have heard ſo much my ſelf from ſom of their own mouths, and, I do verily believ, in their own conſciences, between God and themſelvs, they are convinced, that they have oppreſſed mee unjuſtly; and if ſo, let ſom Members of the Parlament have a care when they are in judgment, *Not to pronounce a ſentence againſt the light of their own conſciences: for the Oppreſſors that willingly do injuſtice, to pleaſ themſelvs, or others, that are in power, when their conſcience ſhall check them for Oppreſſion, may one day fall under the ſame affliction themſelvs.*

For thoſe Gentlemen, how great ſoëver, muſt know, there is a righteous God, who ſeeth all things, and in his good time will render to every man according to his merits; and thoſe that judg without mercie, ſhall have no mercie; and they know not how ſoon God will call their delay of Juſtice, and their forbearing to do men right to accompt; truly the cries of the oppreſſed are many in this Nation.

May it pleaſ your Honors! if I may have my Eſtate reſtored, or the value of it, it ſhall oblige mee to pray for your

Honors, and then the Council keep's their promiſs, which I faithfully had from many of them, when I firſt undertook to make a ſtop of the ſilver claimed by the *Spaniard*; I humbly ſubmit all to your Honors.

Martii 4. 1652. THO. VIOLET.

For the Lord *Bradſhaw*.

An Account of what hath been taken from mee, Thomas Violet, *for which I humbly deſire Reparations, and ſatisfaction from the Parlament, out of the Silver in the prize-Ships, which I have ſtaied*, March 4. 1652.

1. WHen I was ſent to the *Tower* the 6 of *Jan.* 1643. my Mother had of my Goods, Bonds and Bills in her hands, taken from her, at ſeveral times, *viz.* to the value of one thouſand, three hundred and odd pounds; beſides manie of my papers, and Accounts of great value and conſideration to mee, ſeized, and manie of my papers were of great concernment to the Common-wealth; and yet I cannot com to the knowledg who hath them; but this I am ſure of, if there had been any thing in them that could have made againſt mee, there had been then uſe made of them.

2. My Mother had at another time, a Privie-Seal taken from her, wherein the late King acknowledged hee owed mee, for my expences in the diſcoverie of the Tranſporters of Gold and Silver, ninteen hundred, threeſcore and eight pounds, which money I laid out every penie out of my own purſ; and am ready

to

to make his discoverie to the State, upon passing of the Act against Transporters of Gold, which Act hath been twice read in the last Parlament, and is in the custodie of Mr *Augustin Garland*.

3. The Committee of *Essex* put mee out of my possession of the Mannors of *Battles*, and *Paton-hall* in *Essex*, as appears by their Warrants, which I have to produce, of which Land I had an extent to the just value of one thousand pounds, due to mee in 1643. and *Philip Cage* Esq; was in possession of the Premises for my use.

4. The Committee of *Shropshire*, seized in my Sister's hands in *London*, three bonds, due to mee, in two thousand pounds, for the payment of mee *Thomas Violet* one thousand pounds by the Ladie *Waade*, *Edmond Lenthal*, Esq; *Phillip Cage*, Esq; *Charls Mordent* Esq; as appears under the hand of the said *Phillip Cage* Esquire.

5. I had the Leases of ten several houses at the Postern in little *More-fields*, and the Tenants owed mee, when I was committed to the *Tower*, in Arrears for Rent, about one hundred pounds, and for above these nine years I never received rent of them; but Mr *Elconhead* hath received the Rent ever since.

6. Som of the Silver Wier-Drawers, by their unjust clamor, caused my Office to bee sequestred from mee, which was for the Surveying and Sealing of all Gold and Silver thred; to prevent the deceit of this Nation by court and adulterated Silver-thred, wyer and spangels, which at this daie is very much adulterated, for want of the said Office; which Office for the surveying and sealing of all Gold and Silver-thred and wyer, I had from the late King for three lives, and it hath cost mee neer fifteen hundred pounds to my Lord *Treasurer*, Lord *Cottington*, S[r] *John Cook* and S[r] *John Banks*, before I could get the grant to pass under the great Seal of *England*; and that Office made

mee

mee above three hundred pounds a year, beſides an houſ rent-free.

7. I had one quarter part of the Ladie *Villers* Farm for importation of all Forrein Gold and Silver thred, hatbands or lace, and Copper thred throughout *England* and *Wales*, for fourteen years; which coſt mee a little before I was ſequeſtred ſeven hundred pounds, and it was worth one hundred and fiftie pounds *per. an.* to mee.

8. I had a grant from the late King under his ſignet to bee Maſter Worker of the Mint in the *Tower* of *London*, which grant was taken away from mee when I had my houſ ſeized in *Jan.* 1643.

9. Beſides the aforeſaid ſumm's, I ſpent in my impriſonment in the *Tower* for almoſt four years, ſeven hundred pounds, and could never get my cauſ to bee heard, though by my friends I preſented manie petitions, and I have attended the late Parlament with my petition this ſix years, ever ſince I had my libertie out of the *Tower*, to have Juſtice, and relief in the foreſaid premiſes; and have ſpent on my attendance onely in following this buſineſs to get my cauſ heard, above one thouſand pounds; beſides *I* have ſpent all my time for above theſe laſt ſix years, in doing ſeveral ſervices for the State, as is well knouvn to a great manie of the Parlament and Council of State and Committee for trade; upon the faithful promiſs of manie members that my petition ſhould bee granted, and I have my eſtate reſtored, or the value, which by theſe particulars amount's to above a eleven thouſand pounds. My good ſervices *I* have don is well knouvn to your honors, Sr *James Harrington*, Sr *Henrie Mildmay*, Mr *Tho. Chaleno*r, *Col. Herbert Morley*, Mr Alderman *Allen*, M^r *Auſtin Garland*, and the Committee of the Mint, and many other members of the Council of trade, about ſetting the *par* of Exchanges and coyns, Free-ports, and ſeveral other great ſervices *I* did

the Common-wealth before ever your Honors and the Council of State engaged mee about the Silver Prizes and Goods in the Admiraltie, and this hath cost mee more charge, trouble and hazard for the time, then ever anie busines I have don. The first thing that moved mee to do this service about the Prizes, was the good and safte of this Nation; but had I not had your Honor's command to do it, and many of the Council of State's promise that I should have both my estate restored, and a good reward for my great expence, pains and hazard; I should not have ventured on so knottie a business, for which I go in hazard of my life daily. I humbly submit the premises to your Honors.

March 4. 1652.

Tho. Violet.

These papers with som little additions I delivered to my Lord *Bradshaw*, Sr *James Harrington*, and Mr *Allen*.

Here follow's a Copie of my Petition put into the late Parlament; which petition hath been depending these six years, and I have delivered som hundreds at several times to the Members, and could never bee heard, nor I have relief or justice, though I attended it daily, beeing promised by several members to take the first opportunitie for my relief: also a Copie of the late King's Letter which I brought to *London*, and my answer to the honorable Committee at *Gold-smith's-Hall*, when they examined mee about the same; with the Order of my commitment to the *Tower*, for bringing up the said Letter for peace, which was before anie Law was made to the contrarie, to prohibit any person, to bring up a Letter of peace from the late King.

To

To the Supreme Autoritie, the PARLAMENT of the COMMON-WEALTH of *England*.

The humble Petition of THO. VIOLET.

Sheweth!

THat your Petitioner, with *Theophilus Rilye*, then Scout-Master of the Citie of *London*, by order of the Honorable Houſ of Cō. the 6. of *Januarie* 1643. was committed priſoner to the Tower; where your Petitioner remained almoſt four years, the ſaid *Rilye* beeing diſcharg'd out of the Tower within a year from the time of his commitment; his Eſtate never ſequeſtred, or taken away, your Petitioner having acted nothing in that buſineſs, without the approbation of the ſaid *Theophilus Rilye*. And your Petitioner had a Paſs to go to *Oxford* by the Lord General *Eſſex*, and an Order from the then-Houſ of Commons, and the Committee of both *England* and *Scotland* were, by your petitioner's appointment, made acquainted, that your Petitioner was, within few daies, to bring up a Letter from the late King to the Citie, for peace: which your Petitioner deſired Sir *David Watkins* to acquaint the Parlament with, before ever your Petitioner went to *Oxford*.

My humble ſuit, is, therefore that Sr *David Watkins* and Mr *Rilye*, may bee examined of the truth of this. Your Petitioner acted nothing in this buſineſs but by *Order*; and what the Parlament, or ſom prime Members, knew of, and did conſent to the doing of it.

That

That during the time of your Petitioner's reſtraint, your Petitioners Eſtate was by the Committees of *Eſſex Salop*, *Middleſex*, and *London*, ſequeſtred, and taken away. Your Petitioner's Eſtate in *Eſſex* beeing by Order of Parliament, granted unto certain perſons (through whoſe informations your Petitioner was ſequeſtred) who ſince the grant and obtaining thereof, have never made good their allegations, or informations, or anie part thereof, although by ſeveral Orders of the honorable Committee of *Eſſex*, and *Salop* in purſuance of an Order of the honorable the Barons of the Exchecquer, they have been required to make good their charge againſt your Petitioner, as by the ſaid Orders may appear, neither hath your Petitioner during the time of his ſaid impriſonment, nor ſince (though to the uttermoſt of his power endeavored daily, and ſolicited at the Houſ-doors) been hitherto able to obtain a hearing of his cauſ, whereby all your Petitioner's Eſtate hath for this nine yeats laſt paſt, been out of your petitioner's hands, to his utter ruine without the relief of this honorable Houſ.

Your Petitioner humbly praieth, that the ſaid ſequeſtration may bee taken off, and that all Lands, Bonds, Bills, Leaſes, Moneys, Goods, Debts, Offices, Extents, Writings and Evidences of what nature ſoever, in whoſe cuſtodie the ſame, or any part thereof is, beeing, and remaining, maie bee reſtored to your Petitioner.

And that a juſt account may bee given Your Petitioner of the profits received ever ſince the ſequeſtration by ſuch perſon or perſons who have received the ſame; Your Petitioner humbly praieth this the rather, for that hee, ever ſince his enlargement out of the Tower, hath don many good and faithful ſervices for the Common-wealth, to the beſt of his skill and power, as is known as well

well to the honorable Council of Staee, as to ſeveral honorable Members of this honorable Houſ.

And Your Petitioner ſhall praie,&c.

THO. VIOLET.

A Copie of the late King's Letter to the Lord Major, and Aldermen of the Citie of *London*.

Charls Rex.

TRuſtie and well-beloved, wee greet you well; when wee remember the many Acts of Grace and Favor Wee, and our Roial Predeceſſors have conferred upon that our Citie of *London*, and the many examples of dutie and loialtie for which that Citie hath been likewiſe famous, Wee are willing to believ, notwithſtanding the great defection wee have found in that place, that all men are not ſo degenerated from their affection to Us, and to the peace of the Kingdom, as to deſire a continuance of the miſerie they now feel: and therefore beeing informed that there is a deſire of ſom principal perſons of that Citie, to preſent a Petition to us, which may tend to the better procuring a good underſtanding between Us and that our Citie, whereby the peace of the whole Kingdom may bee procured: Wee have thought fit to let you know, that wee are ready to receiv any ſuch Petition, and the perſons who ſhall bee appointed to preſent the ſame to us, ſhall have a ſafe conduct, and you ſhall aſſure all our good ſubjects of that our Citie, whoſe hearts are touched with any ſenſ of dutie to Us, or love to the Religion and Laws eſtabliſhed, in the quiet and peaceable fruition whereof, they and

their Anceſtors have enjoied ſo great happineſs, that wee have neither paſſed any Act, nor made any profeſsion or proteſtation for the maintenance and defence of the true Proteſtant Religion, and the Liberties of the Subject, which wee will not moſt ſtrictly and religiouſly obſerv, and for the which wee will bee alwaies ready to give them any ſecuritie can bee deſired, and of theſe Our gracious Letters Wee exſpect a ſpeedy anſwer from you, and ſo Wee bid you farewel.

Given at our Court at Oxford *on the* 19th *year of Our Reign,* 26th Decemb. 1653.

By his Majeſtie's Command,

George Digbie.

Upon the bringing up to *London* of the aforeſaid Letter, I, *Tho. Violet* of *London*, Gold-ſmith, was examined before an honorable Committee of Parlament at Gold-ſmith's Hall, *Januarie* 3, 1643, where I made the Committee acquainted that I had acted nothing but by order of Mr *Theophilus Riley*, Scout-maſter of the Citie of *London*, who was autorized by Ordinance of both Houſes of Parlament, and by Act of the Common-Council of the Citie of *London*, to hold intelligence in any of the King's quarters, and that the ſaid *Theophilus Riley*, by virtue of his place, did procure my Paſs from the Houſ of Commons to go to *Oxford* the 25 *December*, 1643, as will appear by the Journal-books in the Houſ of Commons, and that my Lord General *Eſſex* did give mee a Paſs to go to *Oxford* the 27 of *Decemb.* by Sr *Arthur Haſlerig*'s and Sr *David Watkin's* means; both which Warrants were procured for Mee *Tho. Violet* by *Theophilus Riley*, Scout-maſter, and one of the *Militia* of the Citie of *London*, and the parties aforeſaid; and that the ſaid *Theophilus Riley*, and I, *Tho. Violet*, and Sr *David Watkins* had made ſeveral Members of Parlament,

ment, and Committee of both Nations acquainted with the Letter, before ever wee ſent it to *Oxford* to have the King Sign it; and wee had their approbation for doing the ſame; and I, *Tho. Violet*, did plead juſtification for my doing thereof before the ſaid Committee, having the Warrant and approbation of the Common-wealth's Scout-maſter. Moreover I declared, that there was not then at the time of my bringing up of the late King's Letter, beeing the 2d of *Januarie*, 1643, any Order, or Ordinance to forbid mee, or any other perſon, to bring up a Letter of Peace from the late King: beſides, I told the Committee, that by God's Law, where there is no Law, there can bee no tranſgreſsion: and my bringing the late King's Letter up to *London* before a law made to ſhew mee my Rule to walk by, I beeing the King's Servant, I humbly conceived could bee no offence; whereupon the honorable Committee made their report to the Houſ of Commons; and thereupon the honorable Houſ made this Order, *viz.*

Die Sabbathi 6to Januar. 1643.

SIr *Henrie Vane*, Mr *Solicitor*, and Sr *Arthur Haſlerig* report the deſign of Mr *Theophilus Riley*, Scout-maſter of the Citie, Col. *Reade*, Sr *Baſil Brook*, Mr *Violet*, and others, concerning Letters, a Petition, and Propoſitions touching Accommodation, &c. and the particular examinations of the ſaid parties, and a Letter from his Majeſtie to the Lord Major, Court of Aldermen, &c. and two Letters from the Lord *Digbie* to Sir *Baſil Brook*, of the 29 of *December*, and the 2 of *Januarie* were all read.

Reſolved, &c. *Theophilus Riley*, Sr *Baſil Brook*, and *Thomas Violet* ſhall bee committed cloſe Priſoners to the Tower.

Hen. Elſing, Cler Parl. D. Com.

I ſhall

I shall humbly desire the Committee of *Essex* to observ this; here was no conspiracie charged on any of us, by the Order of the Houſ of Commons; but if they will read the orignal, they will finde it, as it is Printed here in the *Journals* of Parlament, onely a Committment to the Tower of *London*; every man that is committed to a prison, muſt not therefore bee guiltie of a conspiracie before hee bee tried, either by Marshal Law, or the Common Law of the *Land*.

And truly I humbly take it my punishment, beeing so long in prison, was beyond my offence, for bringing a letter of peace, when I had not broken anie law at that time in beeing, without having my Estate under Sequestration, or giving Mr *Elconhead* my Estate for his charging mee unjustly, with a conspiracie againſt the Parlament, before the Committee of *Essex*, when hee nor anie other, either hath or can prove it; it shall bee found upon examination, I have don the Common-wealth better service then manie scores such as Mr *Elconhead*, either hath or could ever do; and I humbly hope, when this present Parlament doth take this buſineſs into examination, they will leav mee to my remedie at law againſt *Edward Elconhead*, for his unjuſt and malitious charge to defraud mee of my Estate, to enrich himself by such indirect practice, and make him account with mee for all monies, and rents hee hath received of mine, with dammages for my forbearance since my Sequestration, notwithstanding anie pretence, or Order from the late Parlament, or Committee of *Essex*.

THO. VIOLET.

These papers I left with the Lord *Bradshaw*, Sr *James Harrington*, Mr *Tho. Chaloner*, Mr Alderman *Allen*, with the Committee of *Essex* at *Chemsford*, Mr *Auſtin*

Auguſtin Garland, and ſeveral other Members of Parliament.

Upon the diſſolving of the laſt Parlament, I made my requeſt to the faithful Lovers of their Countrie Col. Wetton, *and Liev^t. Col.* Joice, *to preſent my former ſervices, about the ſtaying the Silver and other Prizes, to the Right Honorable the Council of Officers: which accordingly they did, and brought mee acquainted with ſeveral of thoſe noble Gentlemen; for which great civilities I give them humble thanks; by whoſe means I ſent this enſuing Letter to the Right Honorable General* Monk, *and preſented the enſuing Papers to the preſent Council of State.*

For the Right honorable General *Monk*, Admiral of the Common-wealth of *England*.

May it pleaſ your Honor!

I Have deſired Lievtenant Colonel *Joyce* to bee pleaſed to ſend your Honor this Letter; the occaſion of my writing to your Honor now is, humbly to give you notice of a Book, I preſented to the late Parlament, concerning many abuſes about ſeveral Prize-Ships brought into this Nation, and diſcharged; ſom out of the Court of Admiraltie, and ſom other waies, before they were duely examined; as appear's in my Book I herewith ſend unto your Honor. By reaſon of your great employment as Admiral, I humbly thought it my dutie to preſent you with my Book. In *folio* (99) you ſhall finde a particular Invoice.

S^d the damage hath been to this Common-wealth, to the value of manie hundred thousand pounds, which this Nation hath been couzened of, for want of a strict Examination of Prize-Ships. I was formerly employ'd the 13th of *Decemb.* 1652. by the then Council of State, to assist in the Court of Admiraltie, against the Ships *Sampson*, *Salvador* and *George*; having laden in them manie hundred thousand pounds, which silver had been all let gon, had it not been for my Protest and Solicitation in the Court of Admiraltie, as appear's in my Book, *fol.* 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. I have presumed to send you the Book, with a Copie of my Petition to his Excellencie the Lord General.

My humble suit to your Honor, is, that if you conceiv my Petition is for the service of the Common-wealth, to have these great abuses I have humbly presented unto the Parlament found out, and prevented for the future; that your honor would do mee that just favor, to send in writing to Lievtenant Colonel *Joyce*, what you conceiv is to bee don concerning my humble Petition to his Excellencie.

The Silver aboard all these aforesaid Ships, is Ordered to bee landed by his Excellencie: and to bee brought into the Tower; I humbly desire to bee appointed *Remembrancer* for all prize-Ships, which if *I* had been in *August* last employ'd, the State had had a Million of monie now, which hath by the undue, and careless practice of som men, been let slip out of *England*, for want of a vigilant prosecution, and is now in *Holland*. *I* humbly leav the consideration of the premises to your honor, and remain,

London, *Apr.* 27. 1653.

Your most humble Servant,

THO. VIOLET.

Lievtenant

Lievtenant Col. *Joice*, lieth at the leg neer the *Fountain-Tavern* in the *Strand*, *I* humbly desire your honor to signifie your pleasure to him. This letter I sent by Mr *Quatmore*.

The humble desire, and Petition of Thomas Violet; *presented to the Right honorable Major-General* Desborrow, *Col.* Benet, *Col.* Jones, *all of the Council of State*, May 4. 1653.

Sheweth!

1 THat for want of order and a due regulation, and porsecution of the matters of the State's Prizes, and Prizes of private men of War, depending in the Court of Admiraltie, divers great losses and inconveniencies have ensued; which, if not prevented for the future, will bring unexpressable mischief on this Nation, and will not onely discourage all private Men of War, for continuing those Ships they have abroad; or sending forth of others; but deprive the Commonwealth of much, if not most of that benefit it might and ought to make by Prizes, which are, and have been brought in by the Parlament's Ships; which Prizes ought to bee employ'd towards the support of this War; by which means this State hath been much disenabled, and our enemies enabled, as by sad experience since these Wars began, the State hath found, and by your Petitioner it hath been humbly presented to your Honors to take such order that there may bee a timely redress before it bee too late.

2. That for want of stricter instructions to all Commanders at Sea for this Common-wealth, manie

Ships

Ships have paſſed unqueſtion'd, or not fully examined; and manie more are likely to bee permitted to paſs, and never to have judgment in future, and you have had Millions of Treaſure ſuffered to paſs in this maner; which if it had been ſtopped, had brought the *Hollanders* on their knees before this time. When your Court of Admiraltie and Officers in that Court, are not well regulated, it is a dangerous back-door to this Nation, and by coſtly experience, this State upon examination will finde it.

3. That whereas heretofore in the Court of Admiraltie, ſeveral Ships were in queſtion, and upon juſt grounds and ſuſpition, were brought in as Prize, (but were not put to plead *ſpecially*) by which means many Ships to the value of manie hundred thouſand pounds, ſince *Auguſt* laſt, have avoided Judgment and after-queſtion, for want of ſtrict examination, (by which means particular proof might have been in all likelihood found out) theſe Prize-Ships have been diſcharged. It beeing alleged, it is contrarie to the Rules of the Admiraltie; I humbly ſaie, *No ill cuſtoms ſhould bee kept up to endanger the ſaftie of the Nation*; for the Owners of all ſuch Prizes, beeing under queſtion, ought, by the Civil Law, to prove their Intereſt; eſpecially, as by your Petitioner's endeavors, and reaſons given to Doctor *Walker*, your Petitioner made it manifeſt to bee the conſtant cuſtom of other Nations, and that atteſted by the ableſt Merchants in *London*: and by the great care of Doctor *Walker*, hee got a Judgment for the Common-wealth, for the *Sampſon*, *George* and *Salvador*, beeing the Ships that have the Silver, to caſt the proof on the Claimers, and to cauſ them to prove *ſpecially*; and I humbly hope all other Prizes ſhall exſpect the like hereafter, for I humbly ſaie, it is the onely, and quickeſt waie to curb the *Hollander's* greatneſs, to ſtop them of Trade, in anie Veſſels whatſoever, which will never bee don except

except the State keep a ſtrict eie on the proceedings of the Court of Admiraltie, during the War with *Holland*.

4. That the State hath ſuffered very much, for want of diligent and ſpecial Proſecutors or Solicitors, to take eſpecial notice of everie Prize, and for attending as *Remembrancer* to the Council of State, and to the State's Counſel at law; to have this well don, is the work of many men, and to order all buſineſs, that ſo no Prize ſhould com into the Court to receiv Judgment, if there were any difficultie, or diſpute in the title, till the State's Counſel had argued it *pro*, and *con*, privately; if this courſ had formerly been taken, manie a Prize-Ship, which hath been diſcharged the Court of Admiraltie, and is now in *Holland*, had been confiſcated to the State,

And therefore to enable your Petitioner, to do you this ſervice for the future.

Your Petitioner humbly deſire's, that hee may have a perfect liſt, from the Regiſter of the Court of Admiraltie, of all the Prizes brought into this Commonwealth, from the firſt of *Auguſt* 1652. for the uſe of the State, and all Prizes brought in by private Men of War, and what Ships were condemn'd, and the daies when, and to whom; and that the State's Commiſsioners, for *Dutch* Prize-goods, maie bee deſired to do the ſame, that your Petitioner maie ſee they agree.

And *I* humbly ſaie, until this bee don, that there bee ſom employ'd to execute that truſt, to mannage and prepare buſineſs, the Common-wealth's Counſel cannot execute their charge as were to bee wiſhed, and exſpected; and it is not an Ordinarie Solicitation to finde out witneſſes, and the Myſteries and frauds of Merchants, it muſt bee don by men that have had long experience, and great acquaintance, to get your intelligence; and this part cannot bee acted by the

State's Counsel: for it is out of their cours, they must have everie thing brought to their hands; neither is it for the Judges of the Admiraltie, to take notice of anie caus further, more than what stand's proved before them in Court.

5. That by reason of the premised wants in the cours of the Admiraltie, and most especially for want of skilful sollicitation, and a due care to see every one in trust to do his dutie; there hath been about eightie ships brought in as Dutch-prizes, and many of them shot and torn; many of them had been let gon without judgment, had it not been for Your Petitioner's protesting and appealing in the Court of Admiraltie, which hath been followed at the sole endeavors and great charges and expences of Your Petitioner.

6. That for want of stricter Rules in the Admiraltie, great numbers of Prizes brought in by private men of War have been discharged, to the great disheartning of all Adventurers of that kinde, and weakning the lesser; but necessarie sinews of this Common-wealth; I humbly saie, it is highly advantagious for the State to improve all the force of particular Adventurers both Merchants and Seamen, and to let them have all encouragement as possible may bee given, for to offend so craftie and potent an enemie; I humbly say, that diverse great Merchants complain, that it is in vain for them to put out private men of War against the Dutch, as things are carried in the Admiraltie; and from good hands I have it, that the Dutch doth give against this State, all encouragement to their private men of War.

My humble desire is, that the Register of the Admiraltie may bee Ordered to give mee the particular of all private Ships discharged since the first of *August*, 1652, and if I bee commanded, I will assist and sollicite for to see to the State's part, that the Ships bee not discharged for the future as they have been formerly, through the negligence, if not worse, of your Proctor Mr *Budd*, and

and ſom other in the Court of Admiraltie.

7. That to enable Your Petitioner to do this buſineſs, hee cannot have leſs then two Clerks conſtantly to write for him, and to put your buſineſs in Order for proſecution of the buſineſs in Order for the Court: And whereas Mr *Doreſlawes* hath a Warrant for proſecution of the buſineſs concerning the Prize-ſhips; Your Petitioner alſo deſire's, hee may alſo have a Warrant with ſuch Inſtructions and Powers as your Honors, in your great Wiſdoms ſhall conceiv is ſufficient to enable your Petitioner to do this ſervice with Mr *Doreſlawes*, or other waies as your Honors ſhall order him; ſubmitting himſelf, and his Fee for encouragement, to your grave Wiſdoms.

8. Whereas many occaſions have and will ariſe for ſeveral ſumms of money, for ſeveral meetings in *Wapping*, St *Katharine's*, *Lime-houſ*, *Eriff* and *Blackwall*, and ſeveral Sea ports of this Nation where ſhips are brought in to ſend Poſt about Witneſſes, and ſeveral otherwaies, hath already coſt your Petitioner near four hundred pounds: Hee humbly deſire's, that you would Order your Commiſsioner for Prizes to paie and iſſue out ſuch ſummes of money for this buſineſs, as they, or any two of them ſhall conceiv is for the ſervice of this Common-wealth.

9. That now the Silver is unloaden by the State, which was aboard the *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and *George*, your Petitioner may have ſuch a *Reward* as the greatneſs of this ſervice deſerv's, for ſtaying and getting the State ſo vaſt a Treaſure, in ſuch a conjuncture of time, or at the leaſt your Petitioner may have ſo much, by waie of poundage, as the Parlament hath taken away from your Petitioner, and was promiſed your Petitioner when hee undertook to make his diſcoverie.

Everie part of the premiſes, I humbly ſubmit to your Honors, both for ſuch allowance for my ſelf and Clerks; and for moneys already diſburſed in your ſervice,

vice, and ſuch orders and directions for the future as ſhall bee thought, by your Honors, fit and convenient to enable your Petitioner to do this ſervice, and I will chearfully accept whatſoëver your Honors pleaſ to order and appoint; and ſhall diligently and faithfully diſcharge my truſt, by God's aſsiſtance, highly for the benefit and advantage of this Common-wealth, and give a ſtop to many miſchievous practices which hath been formerly put on the State concerning their Prizes in their Court of Admiraltie.

In the three Silver Ships, there is about four hundred thouſand pouuds, which had all paſſed out of the State's hands, had it not been for my Proteſt in the Court of Admiraltie; and daily the ſaid Silver hath been imbeziled away: If I bee commanded by the State, I ſhall ſhew them how they have been abuſed in many of their Prizes, and in their Silver lately a ſhipboard, which I humbly deſire may bee prevented for the future, for the good of the Common-wealth.

All which I humbly ſubmit, &c.

May 11th 1653.

THO. VIOLET.

To the Right Honorable Col. *Bennet*, one of the Council of State, theſe humbly preſent.

May it pleaſ your Honor!

ACcording to my order I attended this daie in the Court of Admiraltie, to ſee what proceeding was about the Prize-Silver which is now in the Tower; truly the carriage and paſſages of ſom eminent men in the Court was highly prejudicial to the State's intereſt about

about the Silver; and I humbly conceiv, your Honors of the Council of State ought to have a particular Account.

I beſeech you to acquaint the Council, it fall's out concerning this Silver, juſt as I formerly told the late Council of State, that, for want of a ſtrict care of Examining ſeveral Witneſſes which I had ready to produce, many of them have been packed away by the Merchants that claim; and there hath been ſo many delaies in the proceedings in the Admiraltie, that they beyond Seas have had time to laie their buſineſs, that almoſt all the Silver ſhall bee claimed as belonging to them of *Flanders*; which if diligent and ſpeedie care bee taken, may yet bee prevented, and I ſhall make them loſe their deſign.

Doctor Walker did this daie carrie himſelf in this buſineſs with a great deal of zeal and experience for the ſecuritie of the State, and made his Proteſt in the behalf of the Common-wealth.

Sir! The unlading of the Silver is nothing without making out the proof, that it is *Hollanders*'s goods and Silver.

If that ſom Order bee not taken to give a ſtop to ſeveral perſons, and that ſuddenly, they will bee all ſent away out of this Nation, as I am credibly informed ſom have been; and the State loſe their Witneſſes; then the Silver will bee all claimed under the *Spaniard's* title, as now they put in their claims; and for want of a due ſollicitation, by knowing men that underſtand the ſecret combination and frauds in this kinde, the State will run an hazard to loſe this great Treaſure, onely by the miſcarriages of ſom in the Admiraltie.

I have been acquainted with theſe ſecrets this 30 years, and there was not a Witneſs produced in the Court of Admiraltie, but ſuch as I delivered to *Doctor Walker*; it will fall ſo out, all our Engliſh Merchants will run a great hazard to have their goods ſtaied beyond Sea, if

the Silver bee taken away and coyned, without proving it to belong to the Dutch, or the people of the Netherlands, which I had many Witneſſes to prove this Silver Prize; therefore great diligence ought to have been given, to examine ſeveral Paſſengers and Mariners aboard the ſaid Prize-ſhips, before they had been ſhifted away by the Merchants that claim the Silver; which the State may thank Mr *Budde* the Proctor for the Common-wealth, for his neglect, if any inconvenience com on it.

Sir! If I bee commanded and impower'd, as I have formerly told you, I will ſee a quick and vigorous proſecution ſhall bee had in the Admiraltie for all the former miſcarriages, that theſe frauds ſhall bee diſcovered, and the State entituled to this Treaſure in the *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*, and ſeveral other Prizes, Merchandize and Silver.

Sir! If I had had a Warrant from the State in *Auguſt* laſt, to have aſsiſted in the buſineſs about the State's Prizes, the State ſhould have had above a *Million of Money* now in their cuſtodie which is now in *Holland*, through the connivance of ſom in the Admiraltie.

It would have broke the *Hollander*, and brought him on his knees, if there had been a vigilant proſecution.

This Silver had been all let ſlipt away, had it not been for my Proteſt in the Court of Admiraltie, about the 20th *December* laſt, by which means I expoſed my ſelf to a great deal of envie, both of the Merchants and others in the Court of Admiraltie, as appear's in my Book, *folio* 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84. I deſire to have the Warrant encloſed, ſigned, to autorize mee to proceed in this ſervice, which elſ I cannot do, till I have Warrant from the Council, and ſo I reſt.

Your Honors moſt humble Servant,

21 June 1653.

THO. VIOLET.

To

To the Right Honorable Col. Jones, *and Col.* Bennet, *Members of the Council of State, theſe humbly preſent.*

May it pleaſ your Honors!

ON *Saturdaie* laſt you told mee, that I ſhould do a verie good ſervice to the Nation, if I did diſcover anie of the frauds and practices that had been put on the State, concerning anie other Prize-Ships, beſides the *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*; and that if I could, my Warrant ſhould bee enlarged in relation to that ſervice, for that you had read in my Book, I ſpoke of manie other Prize-Ships, wherein the State had been deceived, that if I did preſent you with anie ſuch diſcoverie, or propound a waie for the finding it out, it would bee very good ſervice to the Common-wealth, and you would preſent it to the Council of State for a ſpeedie and effectual proſecution.

Maie it pleaſ your Honors, I know by ſad, and coſtly experience diſcoveries of this kinde, when once preſented, and not powerfully proſecuted, bring's to to the diſcoverer a great deal of envie, which hath befallen mee in ſtaying this Silver by my Proteſt in the Admiraltie, hath incenſed manie Merchants, and ſom in the Admiraltie againſt mee, and when a joint purſ ſhall concurr together with ſom perſons in power and truſt, to bribe out a buſineſs againſt a particular Proſecutor (as in manie buſineſſes in this laſt Parlament, I know it hath been, and in this particular of the Silver, no doubt but will bee, and hath been don;) I ſhall finde the Burden too heavie for my purſ, except you reſtore mee my own eſtate, which hath been taken from mee.

I desire notice maie bee taken, that I cannot prosecute it effectually, but at my great expence, and it hath already cost mee manie hundreds of pounds out of my purs, for what I have don in this business about staying the Silver Prizes, by direction of the late Council of State, and I had several of the late Council of State's promiss, in the behalf of the State, that my estate which hath been taken from mee, should all bee restored, and I receiv a good reward for my charges and endeavors, if that I could entitle the State to the Silver the *Spanish* Embassador claimed, and my reward should bee proportioned according to the quantitie of the Silver I entitled the State unto; the like promiss I had from several Members of the late Parlament: I do leav all the premises to your Honors, and I humbly desire you to present the same to the Council of State, that my Petition is, that I maie have som assurance from this present Council, that when I have don this service to entitle the State to the Silver, that my estate maie bee all restored, and I receiv such a reward, as may encourage all others for the future to serv the State, and in the mean time I maie bee empowred to receiv such summ's of monie, out of my own estate, which is under sequestration; as maie enable mee to proceed in this service. And when this is don, I shall humbly desire an Order to the Commissioners for *Dutch*-Prize-goods, to have a perfect Inventarie of what Ships were then under their charge, the 16. of *Decemb.* 1652. and at that time in their custodie, and in which ships they had Officers aboard for the use of the State, as neer as I can calculate was about fiftie, worth about a Million of monie, and manie of them brought into Harbor, at vast expence and blood, and therefore I humbly conceiv, not to bee discharged, but upon consideration and examination; and this you shall finde agreeable to former Presidents and Records, and

I humbly desire, Mr *Ryley* the Keeper of those Records, maie bee required to attend you in this particular, hee can acquaint you what I have caused him to do in this business.

It is now apparant to the World, what Spirit Rule's in some persons in the Admiraltie, to the great dammage of this State; it had been well for the State I could have been believed before now. In these particulars they had saved manie hundred thousand pounds.

May it pleas your Honors, if I could have had my witnesses examined, and a list of all the passengers in the Ships, *Salvador*, *George* and *Sampson*, and where they did remain, as *I* desired ever since *Januarie* last; you had condemned all the Silver in the said Ships before this time; *But Spanish* GOLD *and* SILVER *work's wonders*; the truth is, this business hath been as slily carried to the prejudice of the State, as ever anie business hath been, and that with so much boldness, as all knowing men that were in the Admiraltie and heard it, must needs confess, that never was the like don in anie Court in the memorie of anie man, in so weightie a business, when the Commonwealth's title was in question: and in convenient time, *I* hope the State will have a strict account of it, let mee but bee impowred by restoring mee to my estate, I will finde out the bottom. And if this bee not don, you will finde no man for the future will venter for the State as I have don, and it will bee a warning to others, not to believ *Court-Holy-water*.

If you will have mee do you service, I desire in persuance thereof, to know what Ships the *Dutch* Prize-Commissioners have discharged since the 16. of *December* 1652. and the daies when they were put under their charge, and to whom delivered, and where the Merchants dwell. I do humbly desire, that the Register and Commissioners for *Dutch* Prize-Goods, bee Ordered to give mee a particular of what

Silver, Wooll, and Marchandiſe, is claimed in the *Sampſon*, *Salvador* and *George*, or anie other Prize-Ships within this Nation, by any perſon, and what goods they have reſtored out of theſe Ships, and to whom and by what Order, and the daies when; this I humbly deſire from the *Dutch* Prize-Commiſsioners, becauſ their Accounts and proceedings are kept perfect, and manie goods have been got from them againſt their good Wills, and by the Merchants Proteſts and Clamors; and from the Commiſsioners I ſhall have the truth of theſe particulars.

My humble ſuit is, that Captain *Biſhop*, may bee deſired to acquaint the Council of State with what letters and advices the late Council received from their ſeveral Intelligencers in *Holland*, of the proceedings and carriages of ſom people in the Court of Admiraltie, concerning the abuſes and practices in their deceiving the State of their *Dutch*-Prizes, and what Ships have, immediately after they have been diſcharged in *England*, went directly for *Holland*; I humbly deſire that Cap. *Biſhop* would produce the Letters concerning theſe diſcoveries to the Council of State. There was an honorable Member of the late Council of State lately told mee, that I had given the late Council of State, ſo much light in the buſineſs of the *Dutch*-Prizes, that if they had not been diſſolved, they would have made ſom in the Court of Admiraltie examples; but now hee was but a private man, and hee hoped I would apply my ſelf to them that govern the State; in doing thereof I ſhould do great ſervice to the Nation, for it was very fit to have theſe things look'd into.

Thus according to your Honors command, I have in this particular made you an humble tender of my faithfulneſs, and will, to ſerv my Countrie in theſe particulars, if I bee commanded, and have a full and ample Warrant to impower mee for my doing thereof,

of, and I moſt humbly deſire an aſſurance from your Honors, for my juſt and due rewards, when I have don your buſineſs in the Admiraltie, concerning the Silver and other Prizes. I humbly leav my ſelf to the Council of State, what they ſhall bee pleaſed to do in this buſineſs; in the mean time I deſire part of my eſtate to bee reſtored, and I ſhall faithfully and vigilantly ſerv them in making theſe diſcoveries, and ſhall not weigh the envie of particular men, for doing my Countrie this ſervice, ſo it bee acceptable to the Supreme Power.

Your Honors moſt humble Servant,

THO. VIOLET.

POSTSCRIPT.

THere hath been great ſtore of Tobaccos and Wools already delivered out of the *Salvador*, *Sampſon* and *George*, and other Prizes; and at this inſtant of time, you are about to deliver neer 900 baggs of *Spaniſh* Woolls, which amount's to a verie great value; I deſired particular witneſſes might bee examined about theſe Woolls and Tobaccos in *Januarie* laſt, both paſſengers in the Ships and others Merchants, but could not; and manie of them by the Merchants are ſent awaie beyond Seas, to avoid the examination; *I* told Doctor *Walker* of it yeſterdaie, beeing the 12. of *June*; who ſaid hee believed manie things had been don about theſe Prizes, which ought not to have been don by ſom in the Admiraltie; but hee would impute it to ignorance, and not maliciouſly don; truly *I* believ it was ſelf-ſeeking and covetouſneſs had a great hand in this buſineſs, and a general

general malignancie of moſt of the Officers in the Admiraltie, as any man maie ſee, if hee read my letter to Mr *Bud*, the State's Proctor.

I humbly deſire to have the marks and numbers of thoſe Woolls and Tobaccos before they bee delivered, and what ſorts they are off.

May it pleaſ your honor, as no man can build a houſ without tools, ſo *I* cannot make theſe diſcoveries without an ample Warrant, to impower mee, and to bee reinveſted into my eſtate, as *I* humbly deſire; and then upon the peril of my life, *I* will give the Common-wealth an exact and a good account, both of their Silver, and alſo merchandiſe in theſe Prizes; and if the State do this, *I* will by God's aſsiſtance, diſcover the ſaid abuſes, and if they pleaſ but to puniſh the Offendors, when they know who hath abuſed them; that will do the buſineſs, to prevent it for the future: but if they bee ſuffered to go on, the State will bee perpetually cozened by theſe falſ and dangerous practices.

June 13. 1653.

THO. VIOLET.

May 24, 1653.

For the Right Honorable Col. *Philip Jones*, and Col. *Bennet*, theſe humbly preſent.

May it pleaſ your Honors!

MR Lievtenant of the Tower did ſend for mee, to tell mee that I ſhould com unto you about ſom buſineſs you had to ſpeak with mee, about the Bullion in the Mint; and when I ſpake with your Honors, you deſired

desired mee to draw up in brief for the best management of the Coyning of the Bullion in the Tower; your Honor telling mee, the Council of State had taken special notice of my great service about the Prize-Silver.

You told mee you had spoken with the Master-worker and Comtroller of the Mint, and som other Officers; you found them very raw and ignorant in this business, all, saving one Mr *James Hore*, and Mr *Burch*, whom you found to bee able Clerks. Seeing your Honors, and Mr Lievtenant of the Tower, have requested mee to give you in writing, what in my experience is to bee don, in carrying on this great work of taking all the marks of the silver, and keeping a particular account of the several parcels of Silver, Weights and Marks.

1. Your Honors must take a special care that every parcel of Silver bee distinctly weighed, and that no man, but such as you imploie, see the marks of the Bars, or Cases, and that no Silver bee weighed but before one of your Honors, beeing of the Committee of the Council of State, and upon every remove out of the Office the papers of the marks to bee sealed up.

2. When you bring your Parcels, you must mark every parcel in Bars, Bags, cases, and Cask, *viz.* nº 1, nº 2, nº 3, and so forward to the last number if there bee ten thousand Parcels.

3. When this is don, you must make your assaies distinctly of all Bars, and if there bee any little one, they must bee melted into one Bar, and a piece cut to make an assay; if you finde Plate and vessels of silver, all that is in one parcel must bee melted down, and the fineness, and weight, and mark of the Bags, Cases, Barrels kept distinctly; when you melt, you must weigh your silver exactly to the pot, and keep an account of the wast back, and that all the ashes bee saved, and at the end of all bee washed, for elf there may bee vo-

luntarie spillings out of the Pots, and so you may bee deceiv'd. You must have a care whom you trust in the Melting-hous while your silver is melting; for you may have a lay or copper put in, and that shall make it weigh your full weight; but if you imploy Mr *James Elore* in the business, or Mr *Burch*, they are men that are very honest and able, can, and will do it justly.

5. If you pleas, I offer to melt down the Ingots, after they are all assaied, to deliver unto the Moniers, for the Fee of 12 grains upon every pound weight Troy. whereas Sr *John Wollaston* hath for this 30 years had 16 grains upon everie pound weight Troy; which Office hee is now uncapable of to execute, by reason of a late Order from the Council of State, for his late engagement in the late black and serpentine Petition with som of the Citie.

I made a Proposition to the Committee of the Mint, about a year and an half past, to execute the place of Master-Worker of the Mint for an hundred pounds the year, and to melt the silver at 12 grains the pound weight; whereas the Master-Worker allow's Sr *John Wollaston* 16 grains the pound weight for melting the silver.

This Proposition was Ordered to bee reported to the then Council of State by the Committee of the Mint; and I humbly offer to do it for you now at the price of 12 grains the pound weight, and a 100l. a year; by which offer I save the State about fifteen hundred pounds the year, of what the Master-Worker and his man the melter hath allowed them when the Mint goe's, in such quantitie as formerly.

6. Your convenient's and safest way for your monies after it is coined, is to bag it up in the Mint; and this may bee don for about two shillings the 100l. and let it remain in som secure place in the Mint, or the Tower, and none com unto it, but by Order of the Council of State, by this waie you will save several

ral Fees that will run out to ſeveral people, if by this way they bee not prevented.

You muſt keep ſom purpoſely to ſee the exact telling the monie, that they keep a perfect account upon Oath, what the Shere make's, and put it down juſtly to the State; by this waie you may ſave ſom thouſands of pounds in Fees; and the State ought to have a juſt account of the profits of the Shere, which amount's uſually to 8ˢ and ſomtimes 10ˢ the 100ˡ by tale.

You alſo keep your monie in your own cuſtodie, under your own lock and keie, to bee diſpoſed of as the State ſhall ſee good at an hour's warning.

For ſom other directions concerning the uncapableneſs of ſeveral of your Officers in the Mint, as the Maſter-Worker, the Comptroller, the Clerk of the Irons, and ſom others; your Honors ſee what ignorant men they are; they may bee aſhamed to eat the State's bread, and are not capable of any buſineſs: your Honors told mee you were ſorrie to ſee the State ſo ſerved in the Mint; the like did the Lievtenant of the Tower.

May it pleaſ your Honors, if by God's Providence I had not ſtaied this ſilver, there would none have been coined till the State had gotten more skilful Officers in the Mint; and yet theſe men, I underſtand, intend to ſtop the arreers of wages they pretend is due to the Maſter-worker, the Comptrroller, and the Clerk of the Irons, out of the monies and profits ariſing by the coining of this ſilver which I cauſed to bee ſtaied, and is now in the Tower; which will bee to the Maſter-Worker about a thouſand pounds, and to other Officers twice as much; in all, it com's to three thouſand pounds, or thereabouts; When theſe men have ſpoiled your mint, they are very confident men to make any ſuch demands; I humbly hope the Committee of the Revenue will look to prevent any ſuch buſineſs on their accounts for the future, now they know it. Truly

Truly I have juſtified it before the Committee of the Mint formerly, and afore all the Officers of the Mint, about a year and a half paſt; That the State had better have given fortie thouſand pounds for theſe laſt five years, then have ſuch Officers as ſom of the aforeſaid perſons in the mint; and this I have juſtified before theſe Officer's faces, at a Committee of the late Parlament; onely *Mr Hore* and *Mr Burch* underſtand the buſineſs, and are men fit for their emploiment, in the *Mint*, or better places then they have.

If I had the place of *Maſter*-Worker of the Mint, as the late King appointed mee, I would know from any part of Chriſtendom, what great quantities of ſilver is ſtirring to bee tranſported.

May it pleaſ your Honors! If I had not known by long experience this Art, your Honors at this daie had not had this Treaſure in the Tower.

I moſt humbly offer my ſervice to your Honors, and deſire ſuch an emploiment in the Mint, and ſuch allowance as your Honors, and the Council of State ſhall think fitting for the ſervice of the State, and I ſhall accept of it as part of my ſatisfaction which I humbly petition the State for; thus with the Tender of my humble ſervice, I remain

Your Honors moſt humble Servant,

THO. VIOLET.

May 24, 1653, a Brevit of the Papers I deliver'd to the Right Honorable Col. *Bennet* and Col. *Joanes*, who ſeveral times ſince have told mee, that in every particular I told them, for the carrying on this buſineſs in the *Mint* for the coining of the ſilver, I had given them the cleareſt information of any; they found

it

it right and true, and the beſt waie for the ſervice of the Common-wealth about their *Mint*-buſineſs, and were pleaſed to engage their Honors, that they would, by the firſt opportunitie, preſent my great ſervices to the Council of State and Parlament, and that they had made my Lord General acquainted with it; and that they at ſeveral times had made the Council of State acquainted with my great ſervices I had don, and that they would preſent my Petition, and ſpeak effectually to it at the firſt opportunitie, to have my Eſtate reſtored.

That ſhortly there would bee a Committee for the Tower, and then what I had propounded concerning my beeing Maſter-worker and Melter, ſhould bee preſented to the Council of State, and ſom order taken to get the Mint ſupplied with abler Officers; Mr Lievtenant of the Tower ſaid the ſame to mee.

Som others of the Council I made acquainted, that great care ought to bee taken concerning the Prize-ſhip, Morning Star; *and that I had ſeveral times been with Doctor* Clerk, *Advocate for the Common-wealth, about that ſhip, to have a great care of the State's Intereſt, concerning the Silver and lading, I made him acquainted what charge and pains I had been at in ſearching the Records in the Tower for Preſidents: I told him* Mr Riley *the keeper of the Records would ſatisfie him.*

I found Dr Clerk *very ready to receiv any Informati-; and I did ſee a very heartie and cordial expreſsion from him ſeveral times for the State's ſervice. Hee hath formerly been a Judg in the Court of Admiraltie; If your Honors could get him to Execute that place again, his experience and gravitie, and his care of Juſtice, I verily believ will prevent ſom former abuſes which hath been daily practiſed in that Court, to the great prejudice of the State and Nation.*

THO. VIOLET.

Friday, June 10. 1653.

At the Council of State at *White-Hall.*

Ordered,

THat Thoms Violet *bee appointed (together with ſom other perſon hereafter to bee named) to bee Aſſiſtant in the making of Diſcoveris, in relation to the Ships* Sampſon, Salvador *add* George, *and their lading, whether Silver or any other Merchandize, and likewiſe of any abuſes which have been in the managing of that buſineſs ſince the firſt bringing up of the ſaid Ships, and hee is from time to time, to acquaint the Council or ſuch as they ſhall appoint with what Diſcoveries hee ſhall make in this buſineſs.*

Ex. Jo. Thurloe, *Secr.*

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20. *July* 1653.

For the Right Honorable Col. *Jones*, Theſe humbly preſent.

I Humbly deſire the State to take notice, that their buſineſs at preſent, is managed concerning their Prize-goods, in ſuch a waie, as leav's a great *latitude* to your Commſioners, *that are Merchants to defraud the State*: So that their fees in the Sale of your goods, and Merchandizes at 2^{d} the pound, is as trifal, and of no conſideration, in compariſon of the perqueſits and

and profits they maie make other waies, (*and it is such a* BAITE *profit*) that few men will refuse it, to let it com to them anie waie; I will not positively affirm, that it is daily practised, till the business is throughly inspected by a Committee of Parlament.

It is this, I am a Commissioner for sale of all the State's Prize-Goods and Ships, and by my Interest, I have gotten my Brother to have the charge of all Ware-houses, and Sellars where these goods laie. I have all Porters, Packers, Brookers and all other several instruments that are for the buying the State's Goods and Merchandize, com unto my Brother to taste Wines, and Tobaccos, and to view Corn, Sugars, Oyles, Woolls, Fruit, Spice, Silks, Beads, Linnings, and all other commodities; when I have don, I will caus som people, *viz.* Coopers, Brookers, Porters or other skilful persons in Merchandize, to sort the State's Wines, either *French*, or *Spanish*; Tobaccos, Silks, Linnens, Woolls, Oyles, Fruit, Spice and all other commodities, when this is don, I will make a sale of part of these commodities, and reserv a quantitie of the sorted and pick'd Merchandize, for my self, or friend, who is a monied man, and can at a pinch laie down twentie thousand pounds for a bargain; paradventure old Mr *Rowland Willson* or som other in the Citie.

I beseech your Honors to suppose the Commissioners, that are no merchants make's a sale for ten thousand pounds by the candle of the States Goods, and Merchandize; and of som of these Merchandize, a Commissioner, that is a Merchant, make a reserv, *viz.* to the value of three thousand pounds of sorted and Pick'd goods, and after put's these goods down without a sale by the candle on account to the State, for the wines, tobaccos, silks, woolls, oiles, sugars, fruit, spice and all other commodities; after the

the ſame rate his fellow Commiſsioners ſold the great parcel of ſeven thouſand pounds, pretending this ſmall remainder is not worth calling for a new ſale, or I beeing a Commiſsioner, will either buy theſe goods in my own name, or get friends to buy them in their name. Theſe goods thus ſorted, gurbled and pick'd from the groſs bulk, maie bee better in the true value then the groſs quantitie of Merchandize, ſold by the candle unpick'd, ſom times twentie, thirtie, naie fortie in the hundred, and ſomtimes where Goods are perriſhable half in half, and above. I humbly leav it to your conſideration, whether the libertie of ſorting, packing and garbeling your commodities, is not a better trade then the bare and ſingle 2^{d} in the pound, upon the Reaſons aforeſaid.

To have ſom information of this buſineſs, and ſhew the Parlament the waie to finde out the bottom thereof, and to prevent it for the future; *I* deſire your Honors to make an Order of the Houſ of Parlament to Mr *John Daie* Broker, that weekly ſells the Printed Bills of the currant Rate and Price in the market for all Merchandize; which Bills paſs as the currant Market, both at *London*, and beyond the Seas, what Rates all Merchandize bare in *London*; and this is the general Rule for all Merchants to buy, and ſell by, as all Merchants know; to require Mr *Daie* to give you all the weekly Bills hee hath Printed for theſe twelv months, of the Prizes of all Merchandizes, unto the Parlament, how Merchandizes is ſold every week in *London*. May it pleaſ your Honors, manie hundreds of Merchants paie Mr *John Daie* quarterly for theſe Bills, as beeing the onely guide to buy and ſell their commodities by.

I humbly deſire a Committee of Parlament to view everie week your ſales, and the Printed Bills, to ſee what you have ſold the Common-wealth's merchandize at, under Mr *John Daies* Printed Bills, you will finde

find it a verie conſiderable buſineſs to underſtand, and profitably to prevent for the future the garbeling or ſorting your commodities for the private profit of your Commiſsioners that are merchants; and that the Parlament ſee carefully for the future, that none of your Commiſsioners that ſell your Prize merchandize, ſhall trade as merchants during the time of their Commiſsion and employment for the ſale of the State's goods, for if you do, you maie bee deceived of thouſands of pounds yearly. It was ſo formerly in the Cuſtom-houſ, no Officer was admitted to trade, ſo long as hee was employ'd, either as a Farmer, or a waiter, and it was don in all ages upon weightie conſideration.

This verie intimation, I humbly ſaie, will ſave you manie thouſand pounds a year, naie ſomtimes ſom thouſand pounds in a week, if you pleaſ to examin it. Ibeliev you have ſold your Prize goods this year under the merchants market, neer one hundred thouſand pounds.

Maie it pleaſ your Honors, I had in Offices taken from mee above five hundred pounds a year, which I bought of the late King and the Ladie *Villers*. If you imploie mee for the Common-wealth, in either the Mint, Cuſtoms, or Exciſe, or your Prize-Office, or in the Court of Admiraltie, I will in ſom of theſe places ſave the State a hundred times more then they will give mee for a penſion, if you give mee a fee of 500l. a year, I will ſave you fiftie thouſand pounds a year, which you are daily cheated of; and this ſhall not bee denied by anie knowing merchant, or others that know's trade that ſhall diſpute it with mee, if they underſtand's the courſ of trade, and are not biaſs'd with a prejudice againſt me, for diſcovering theſe truth's to the State, which in all likelihood, the State would never have known without my information.

If I could bee ſo happie to finde out an old *Burlie*, a *Walſingham*, a *Cecil*, or a Secretarie *Cook*, they would preſently apprehend this buſineſs, as Queen *Elizabeth* did old *Carmarden's* buſineſs, as the greateſt ſervice that could bee offered to the State : *there are at preſent as wiſe State's-men as they* ; but it is my unhappineſs, I have not acquaintance or friends to bring mee, to make my free addreſſes to them upon all occaſions, for the Common-wealth's buſineſs, as is requiſite for the Common-wealth's ſervice, in this conjuncture of time ; and as I have don formerly for manie years with the late King and his Council.

If I had had for theſe laſt ſix years, the ſame free addreſs to the late Parlament, as I had to Sr *John Cook*, late Secretarie of State, and manie other of the late King's Privie-Counſellors ; I would have ſaved this State manie hundred thouſand pounds they have been cozened of, in the point of their Prizes, Cuſtoms, Exciſe and Mint.

Maie it pleaſ your Honors ; my ſtaying the Silver, was a miracle that I had courage to do it ; conſidering the manie hazzards I run in ſtaying the Silver and the multitude of people that had an intereſt in it, and had a deſign to have deceived the State of this Treaſure and manie other Prizes, and if you examin Mr *Steneer's* Letter carefully, you will finde no mean perſons had their hands and heads in this buſineſs. If the Parlament read Cap. *Biſhop's* Letters from *Holland*, and Mr *Steneer's* Letters ſtopp'd by the late Council of State, they will finde ſtrange proceedings in the buſineſs of the Prize-Silver howſoëver, for the preſent it is ſtifled and not examined ; in convenient time I may plaie the Chirurgion, and *probe* it for the ſervice of the Common-wealth.

20. *July* 1653. THO. VIOLET.

S^ir ! *I deſire you to communicate this Paper to the Council of State ; It beeing for the ſervice of the Nation.*

It

IT may bee objected by ſom that are willing to Cavil at any thing I do, that I have not don well, to put all the Tranſactions of this buſineſs into Print, many things in this action beeing not convenient to com to publick view. To give an anſwer to this objection, for I conceiv I ſhall meet it in my Diſh by ſom that carp at mee;

My Anſwer is,

1. THis Narrative is at the preſent, Printed onely for the information of the Members of Parlament and Council of State, and the Council of Officers of his Excellencie the Lord General (this preſent Parlament and Council of State, beeing the onely Judges to give mee relief in my juſt demands) the former Parlament and Council of State for whom I did this ſervice beeing now diſſolved as a Parlament and Council.

2. I moſt humbly conceiv that this preſent Parlament having now in their poſſeſsion, all the Silver I ſtaied in the Court of Admiraltie, and ſeveral other Prize-Ships will bee honorably pleaſed to ſee mee have my due Reward, which was promiſed mee by the late Council of State, and that is my eſtate again reſtored unto mee, or ſo much as can bee by the power of the Parlament, and to make up the reſt of my eſtate that cannot bee reſtored either in money or Offices; the ſom of *eleven thouſand pounds*, according to my particular in this Book *fol.* 63. and this was the agreement and promiſs I had from the Committee of Forrein affairs, and others of the Council of State, beſides manie of the Members of Parlament told mee, I deſerved a greater Reward for

for this buſineſs, more then to bee reſtored to my eſtate, for that they were of opinion, if once my cauſ of Sequeſtration ſhould bee heard in the Houſ, I would bee cleered of my Sequeſtration. Truly I humbly ſaie, were I in any Common-Wealth in Chriſtendom, and had don them the like ſervice as I have don here, and had nothing to pretend too, but this ſervice; I have heard ſom Travellers ſaie, I ſhould for my diſcoverie of ſo great a buſineſs, have manie thouſand pounds beyond what *I* Petition for as my due. I ſhould bee injurious to the Juſtice of the Parlament, if I ſhould make anie declaration as a queſtion of receiving my due.

3. I humbly conceiv, that the former Council were as Factors and Agents for this Common wealth, and intruſted by the former Supreme Power, and what I did with them, I do the ſame thing (with humilitie *I* ſaie it) to this preſent Supreme Power, and to the preſent Council of State. I did them this ſervice for the Common-wealth and not for any particular perſon, or for anie particular man's profit in the Council of State, and therefore though the particular perſons bee changed in the Government, the Common-wealth is not changed, the Common-wealth hath the Silver, the Common-wealth in honor is ingaged to do mee right; theſe preſent Governors, are as Stewards for the Common-wealth, and if my reward ſhould not bee punctually performed by the preſent Power, it would for ever hereafter bee of dangerous conſequence to the State, and would diſcourage any to ſerv the State. I have don the State in this particular, the greateſt ſervice that ever was don in *England* by anie man of my condition, to ſave them neer four hundred thouſand pounds in Silver of our enemies, in this conjuncture of time. It will ſave Taxes and repleniſh the Nation with monie, and it is eaſie to apprehend what advantages the State hath by it.

4. If

4. If I had not given everie Member of Parla-ment in Print, a Narrative of my whole Transactions in this buſineſs of the Silver, and Prizes in the Court of Admiraltie, how could I put in my Petition into the Parlament, to have a Reward for my ſervices, and never to ſhew all the ground-work, or original occaſions, or Tranſactions, upon which in juſtice and equitie my Petition ought to bee granted by this preſent Parlament, they having the benefit the former Parlament had, having by my means ſowed the ſeed, and this Parlament reaping the harveſt; *I* humbly hope they will allow mee a little gleanings, it is ſaid, *Thou ſhalt not muzzle the mouth of the Ox, that treadeth out the Corn*; the State never had had this Silver in the Barn, had *I* not trod and trod again for it.

5. *I* have found manie of the late Parlament men, and ſom of the late Council of State with ſeveral others, their followers and friends having relation to them, getting my Papers into their hands, have acted their parts in ſeveral Scenes of the State at ſeveral Committees, ſeveral Treaties in Forrein Affairs, in ſeveral Offices, as in the Mint, and at the Council of Trade, and at and in ſeveral emploiments in this Nation: which papers of mine *I* have preſented them with, by means thereof ſom have aſſumed more to themſelvs then was ever in them upon a ſtrict examination; for *I* have ſate up manie nights and daies at vaſt expence and ſtudie to bring the State's buſineſs about; and ſom others by my papers have gotten great employments (whereas if they had been truly examined of the worth of themſelvs, they would ſom of them been found *Emptie-headed* and *long-billd Woodcocks*) theſe men having ſerved mee as the hogs doth the man that ſhake's them down the *Alcorns*, they eat them up as faſt as they fall, but never look to give thanks to the man that ſhook them down; beeing ſo far from acknowledging my civil reſpects un-

to them, that for my curteſies in this kind, to ſom *I* have met withal after *I* have been inſtrumental to bring them to good Offices and Preferment, they have don mee ill offices and diſreſpect; *I* ſhall forbear naming of them, hoping for the future they will have more of *Chriſtianitie* than to render mee evil for good; many of my friends that have been privie to their ingratitude, have told mee both of their confidence and impudence in Relation to mee as aforeſaid; and this is one reaſon wherefore *I* Print theſe Papers, that theſe Rooks for the future may bee diſcovered.

6. For my preſenting this Narrative unto the Supreme Power, I am autorized to do it by Order of this preſent Council of State 10th of *June* 1653. to preſent all abuſes that are or have been in the managing of the Silver-Prizes, and by Order of Parlament the 12. of *July* 1653. an Order to examin how the Treaſure coming into the State, may bee managed with the leaſt charge and expenſ, and how all perſons that have receiv'd the monie for the Common-wealth, may bee called to account; another Order of Parlament of the 20. of *July* 1653. where a Committee is appointed to receiv ſuch Petitions to the Parlament, as are proper to the legiſlative power, or not elſ, were to bee relievable with power to ſend for Papers, Records and Witneſſes, by an Order of the aforeſaid Date, *I* am inpowr'd to preſent theſe propoſitions, for the advantage of the Common-wealth, that ſo for the future, ſom good Rules and Laws may bee made for the Court of Admiraltie; and this Narrative is one of the principalleſt for the ſaftie and profit of this Nation, that hath or ſhall, *I* humbly conceiv, bee preſented to the Parlament.

1. As in relation of the Silver now a Coyning in the Tower.

2. Several other Prize-Ships, and diſcovering ſeveral frauds, and breachs of truſt in ſom perſons,

to

to the great dammage of the Common-wealth.

3. There is a Committee appointed for the publick Treasurie, and for the best improovment, these propositions is for them, wherein by careful mannaging of the sale of the Prize-goods, they may improve the same manie thousand pounds yearly; the carriage of that business of the sale of your Prize-goods, I humbly desire maie bee called to a strict and exemplar count.

4. I humbly think that there is not one Member in the Hous will conceiv his time lost to bee made acquainted with the several passages of this Narrative; if I knew anie would not bestow the reading of it, I would spare my pains in presenting them with it.

7. If I would have been taken off of the Prosecution of this business, as som are who offered mee their assistance several times about *Januarie* last; now their Actions are turned, they are at present for the Merchants that claim this Silver, and act the Merchants-business againſt the Common-wealth: if I would have don the same thing, I needed not at this daie have petitioned for my dammages, to the Parlament; my deserting the prosecution, *had lost the State's business*, for which I could have had a eleven thousand pounds paid mee with thanks, anie where in Christendom *I* would have had it paid mee: but I never have or will by God's assistance, leav the Common-wealth for particular profit. Had *I* don as som have don, (whel'd about) the State had been cozened of every pennie of these Prizes; but those that know mee truly, know I am of another temper; *I* desire all men whomsoëver in this Nation, to give mee a charge to this present Parlament, that directly or indirectly, *I* ever for my own private use, received one pennie of any man for any favor, connivance or other waies whatsoëver in the late King's time; and *I* freely have gotten manie man his pardon, from the late

late King: and now I am ingaged in this buſineſs, no man ſhall directly or indirectly draw mee to betraie the State's intereſt; if any can give mee a charge, I chalenge them to do it, (I know I have enemies enough, I deſire them to give mee a charge, I deſire no favor). Upon the reſult of all, I humbly deſire the Parlament to conſider ſeriouſly, how manie men would have ſerved the Parlament ſo faithfully as I have don, upon the ſingle account of acting againſt all Merchants and others in the World, for the Honor of the Parlament, and ſaftie of my native Countrie. If this bee not duely conſidered by this Parlament, and my eſtate reſtored, all men for the future will have a care how they ſerv the Publick, to bring a ruine on themſelvs for beeing honeſt to their Nation.

8. That wheras ſeveral Honorable Members of the former Council of State, Members of Parlament are named in this Narrative, I do humbly appeal to their Honors for the particular buſineſs they are named in, for the truth of what is aſcerteined, both for the matter, time and circumſtance, onely putting it into a form.

9. This Narrative I put forth for the information of the preſent Judges of the Court of Admiraltie, that ſo they maie bee acquainted with the ſeveral abuſes, formerly acted by ſom in the Court of Admiraltie, and that they carefully ſee, that ſuch remedies, by Act of this preſent Parlament, may bee made for the due regulating the Officers, and proceedings of that Court for the future, that all former abuſes, and deceits formerly put on the Common-wealth, may bee prevented; I humbly deſire an Order of Parlament, that the Judges in the Admiraltie bee Ordered to take an exact account, what Ships have been diſcharged the Prize-Office, by Order of the Admiraltie, ſince the firſt of *Auguſt*, 1652. to the firſt of

Auguſt

Auguſt 1653. and the daies when, and what Ships were ſeized for the State, and what Ships for Prizes of private men of War, there is now depending in the Court of Admiraltie this 1. of *Auguſt* 1653. and in ſom other particulars which I will attend the Judges of the Admiraltie in. I do humbly deſire Sr *Sackvil Crow*, Doctor *Walker*, Doctor *Clark*, Advocates of the Common-wealth, Mr Lievtenant of the Tower, Liev. Colonel *Joice*, Colonel *Wetton*, Mr *Oxenbridge* and Mr *Sparrow*, Commiſsioners of *Dutch*-Prize-goods; Mr *Jſaac Doreſlaws*, Mr *William Riley*, Keeper of the Records in the Tower, and all others that are named in this Narrative to declare, whether the proceedings and things ſet down, bee not a true Narrative of my tranſactions in this buſineſs, the putting the ſaid buſineſs into a form beeing allowed mee; all which pains and charge had been ſaved, if the old Council of State and Parlament had continued, manie of them were privie to everie one of theſe paſſages, and could have reported it to the Houſ, without putting mee to the trouble to Print this Narrative.

And I humbly referr my ſelf to the judgment of all judicious men, whether there was not a neceſsitie to Print this Narrative aforeſaid, for the due and true information of all the Honorable Members of this preſent Parlament; I humbly conceiving, everie one of them having equal and Supreme Power to do mee Juſtice in this my humble Petition, (and I praie God in Heaven direct them) that they maie do mee their humble Petitioner right in this cauſ: for as I am dealt with in this buſineſs, it will remain on Record, either to encourage or diſcourage any for the future, to do the State ſervice in the like kinde. In the firſt *place, I have had conſtantly in my eie, in the whole courſ of my proceedings in this weightie buſineſs, the Saftie, Benefit, Advantage and Honor of this Common wealth in this conjuncture of time, venturing in this action, both my perſon, eſtate and life, to*

accompliſh and do the Common-wealth this ſervice, againſt publick Miniſters of forrein Princes, Judges and Officers in a Court of Admiraltie, and hundreds of Merchants both Engliſh and others, as everie Member of this preſent Parlament may ſee from the firſt to the laſt of this my Narrative.

Secondly, I have had a careful eie, that upon doing this difficult ſervice, that the Parlament might (acording to the promiſs of the Council of State, upon my undertaking this buſineſs) reſtore mee to my eſtate which hath been unduely taken from mee, that ſo I might have to live of my own in a plentiful waie, as I have don formerly, and bee enabled to ſerv the Common-wealth thereby.

And theſe are the true reaſons, that cauſed mee to Print this Narrative, and no other; I would have any that are not of this opinion know, I can keep ſecrets as well as another man, and manie hundred ſecrets I know both of times paſt, and preſent, that ſhall bee buried in perpetual ſilence, except ſuch a neceſsitie as this is, which is for the ſaftie of the Nation, and for the ſaving my whole eſtate, enforceth mee to diſcover them. I humbly leav it to the judgment of any juſt diſcreet or honeſt man, whether I could never get this my buſineſs truly ſtated to this Parlament, without ſetting forth this Narrative, and I humbly leav it to any indifferent man ſuppoſing hee had all his eſtate unduely taken away from him, as mine is from mee, whether hee would ſpare to ſpeak, or leav any ſtone unturn'd, if all hee had ſhould bee loſt for want thereof.

The whole buſineſs is humblly left to the Juſtice, Equitie and Pietie of this Honorable Parlament, at whoſe feet I proſtrate it, and ſhall daily praie for their proſperitie in this World and in the World to com.

Aug. 3. 1653.

THO. VIOLET.

FINIS.

A Liſt of all ſuch Ships as the Fleet of the PARLAMENT of *England* have brought into this Common-wealth as Dutch-Prizes, (which Ships have all been diſcharged by the High Court of Admiraltie, the daies here-under written) beſides ſeveral other Ships diſcharged as Dutch-prizes brought into this Common-wealth by diverſ private men of War, the particular names and times of their diſcharge, I humbly deſire the Regiſter of the High Court of Admiraltie may bee ordered to bring into the Parlament.

Alſo I humbly deſire, that the Right Honorable Admiral *Blake* may bee deſired to ſend up unto the Parlament what Ships of *Hamborough*, *Lubeck*, *Danzick*, or any of the Hans-Towns, hee or any of his Officers hath given paſſes to ſail to the foreſaid places, ſince *Auguſt* 12, 1652.

	Ships and Goods therein reſtored	*Maſters.*	*The Parties to whom.*
*Decem.*10. 1652	A Sloape called the Love and Goods, London	*Luther Mayeer*	Unto the Mr and Comp.
*Decemb.*16. 52	Fiſher of Straelſondt and Goods, Dover	*Gaſpor Viſcar*	Unto the Mr and owners
*Decemb.*16. 52	Peter of Straelſondt and Goods, London	*Albert Hubertſon*	Unto the Mr and owners
*Decemb.*16. 52	Abraham's Sacrifice and Goods Ditto		Unto *Peter Scrother* for the uſe &c:
*Decemb.*16. 52	Fortune and Goods Ditto	*Berent Van Dunk*	Unto the ſaid Mr and owners
*Decemb.*16. 52	St John Baptiſt, and Goods	*Bartle Johnſon*	Unto the Mr for the owners
*Decemb.*18. 52	St John Baptiſt, and Goods	*Rattey Bye* Mr	Unto the ſaid Mr for &c.
*Decemb.*18. 52	George of Hambrough and Goods, Falmo	*Martine Stehew*	Unto the ſaid Mr for &c.
*Decemb.*18. 52	St John and Goods Ditto	*Berent Johnſonſon*	Unto the Mr for &c.
*Decemb.*18. 52	Temperance, and Goods	*Frederick Witherick*	Unto the Mr for &c.
*Decemb.*4. 52	Peter and Goods except the Silver, Ditto	*Daniel Stretman*	Unto the Mr for &c.
*Octob.*15. 52	St Jo.Baptiſt of Horn,& goods,except ½ part, Ditto	*Inebrand Peterſon*	Unto *Laurence de Geere*
*Octob.*1o 52	Goods Scedulate in the Cock, *alàs* Roſecrame	*Tenby*	Unto *Don Antonio de Plato*
*Octob.*22. 52	Young Tobias, and Goods, Cows	*Weſell Goſenſon* Mr	Unto *Zacharie Lappa*
*July*30. 52	Love Galliots, and goods, London	*Sveyer Johnſon*	Unto *Lewis de Geere*, and compa
*Septem.*29. 52	Goods Scedulate *in* the Cock, *alàs* Roſecrame	*Tynby*	Unto *Iacintho Lopez*,
*Octob.*12. 52	Ann of Oſtend, and Goods, Plimo	*Daniel Cornellis*	Unto *Joos Fremont*, and Compa
*Decem.*10. 52	Six ie eight Butts of Oyl in the Griman, London		Unto *Cornellis* and *Gerard Knife*
*Septem.*21. 52	A Sixth part of the Ship Hopewell, and Goods	*Peter Johnſon*	Unto *John Southwood*, or aſſigns
*Octob.*8. 52	⅓ part of Ancona of Venice with freight due, Ditto	*Adrian Hendrickſon*	Unto *Euſtace Van Ekey*
*Decemb.*22. 52	Katharine of Hambrough, and goods, Ditto	*Briſtoll*	Unto the Mr for &c.
*Decemb.*10. 52	A Cheſt and half & Barrel of Sugar, Fortune of Fluſhing		Unto *John Hubine*, or aſſigns
*Octob.*15. 52	¼ part of one two and thirtieth part of the Ship Maid of Enchuſen, and ¼ part of one two and thirtieth part of the lading, and 13 ſaccardave planks	*Wm Johnſon Lawne* *London*	Unto *Zachary Lappa*, or aſſigns
Auguſt 15. 52	1½ parts of the King David and lading	*Walter Jacobſon* Mr	Unto *Simon Clerk*, and Compa
*Septem.*21. 52	Fortune of Hambrough, and goods, Plimo	*John Strother* Maſter	Unto *Philip Dunker*, &c.
*Octob.*1o 52	May-Flower, and goods, Portſmo	*Andrew Shorte* Maſter	Except ½ part of Ship & goods for ſalvage
Auguſt 5. 52	Gift of God of Ayre, and goods, Plimo	*Thomas Kennedy* Mr	Unto *Thomas Jarvan*, and others
*Octob.*5. 52	Fortune of Newport, and goods, Ditto	*Joos de Vink* Maſter	Unto *Gaſper Sanſon*, and others
*Novemb.*17. 52	Peace of Wiſemire, and goods, Dover	*Claes Maulis* Maſter	Unto the ſaid Mr and Compa
*Novemb.*19. 52	St Jacob, and goods, London	*Chriſtian Wand*	
*Novemb.*19. 52	Black Eagle, and goods, Dover	*Harman Luders*	Unto *Hendrick Vanaskine*, and others
*Novemb.*17. 52	St Matthew of Hambrough, and goods, Ditto	*Henry Cruſe*	Unto *Peter Larkines*, and others
*Novemb.*17. 52	Charitie of Gottenbrough, Ditto	*Paul Pawſon Boman*	Unto *George Van Lingard*, and others
*Novemb.*21. 52	Hunter, and goods, Ditto	*Claves Griſel* Maſter	Unto the Mr and Compa
*Novem.*17. 52	Fortune of Straelſondt, and goods, Ditto	*Daniel Ranges*	Unto the ſaid *Daniel Ranges*, and others
*Novem.*22. 52	Icedom, and goods, Ditto	*Paſque Alberts*	Unto the Mr for the uſe of *Hen. Johnſon*
*Novem.*19. 52	King David, and goods, London	*Gillos Lites*	Unto *Vincent Kiningsburgh*, and Compa
*Novem.*19. 52	Sampſon of Wiſemire, and goods, Dover	*Severt Godtman*	Unto *Henrick Vanderdlen*, and others
*Novem.*17. 52	Hope of Dantzick, and goods, Portſmo	*John Johnſon*	Unto *Peter Benſon*, and Compa
*Noxem.*17. 52	Land of Promiſe, Dover	*Garret Higenloe*	Unto Burgo-Mr *Wakeman*, and others
*Novem.*17 52	St Ellin of Roſtock, Ditto	*Hendrick Dureloffe*	Unto the ſaid Ma and Compa
*Novem.*17. 52	Fortune of Hambrough, and goods, Ditto	*David Beck*	Unto the Mr for the uſe of the owners
*Novem.*17. 52	Fortune of Lubeck, and goods, Portſmo	*Joachim Dunke*	Unto the Mr and Compa
*Novem.*17. 52	Juſtice of Hambrough, London	*Frederick Fox*	Vnto the Mr and Compa
*Novem.*19. 52	St John, and goods, Dover	*Hendrick Pape*	Vnto the Mr for &c.
*Novem.*17. 52	Concord of Lubeck, and goods, Ditto	*John Dureloffe*	Unto *Anthony Weffels* and Compa
*Novem.*19. 52	Hope of Hambrough, and goods, Ditto	*Hendrick Elders*	Vnto *John Jennink* and Compa
*Novem.*19. 52	Sampſon of Hambrough, and goods, London	*Hans Hiteman*	Vnto *William de la Biſtrus* and others
*Novem.*17. 52	Black Oxe, and goods, Ditto	*Garret Hendrickſon*	Vnto *Andrew Garretſon* and others
*Novem.*8. 52	Lno King David ¼ part, and ¼ part Brazeile-wood		Vnto *Baldwin Matthews*
*Novem.*22. 52	St Jacob of Hambrough, Falmo	*Client Marenſon*	Vnto *John Lemerman* and Compa
*Octob.*15. 52	Lno Little Prince ⅛ part and of Tackle and Furniture	*Claes Juniſon*	Vnto *Ralph Tomaines*
*Octob.*12. 52	Ditto Antona of Venice ⅛ part and of Taclke, &c.	*Peter Johnſon*	Vnto *Baltazar Vandegoes*
*Decem.*1o 52	Two White Hawks, and goods, Dover	*Peter Harmaſon Beker*	Vnto the ſaid Mr
*Novem.*19. 52	Love, and goods, London	*John Hendricks*	Vnto *William Blachford* and others
*Decem.*1o 52	St George, and goods, Dover	*John Peterſon Greipe*	Vnto the Mr for the uſe of the owners
*Novem.*29. 52	Hope, and goods, London	*Hendrick Martines*	Vnto the ſaid Mr and Compa
*Novem.*29. 52	Childrens Plea, and goods	*Simon Fox*	Vnto the ſaid Mr and Compa
*Decem.*1o 52	St Sebaſtian, and goods	*John Geeſt*	Vnto the ſaid Mr for the uſe of the owner

Signed, THO. VIOLET.

Noble Sir!

Have here preſented you a true *Narrative* of ſom remarkable paſſages, concerning the Silver Prizes, *viz.* the Ships, *Sampſon, Salvador*, and *George*, and ſeveral Prizes depending in the High-Court of Admiraltie, with ſom prime obſervations of the Trade of this Nation, and for regulating the Mint in the Tower of *London*.

Sir! There are ſom men, when they behold a houſ ready finiſhed, they do not at the firſt apprehend the ſeveral pins, and beams, and materials that make's and frame's the building; there is many a nail driven, which the Spectator never ſee's; the builder that paie's for it, hee onely keep's that particular account, as I have don for this Book, I humbly preſent you.

I muſt confeſs, this is but a thatched Cottage, but it hath coſt mee many years pains and trouble, and great expence, to preſent it to you, in that ruff, and unpolliſhed ſhape it is in; I have for many years, night and daie, had ſeveral helps and hands, both in *England* and beyond-Seas, from choice intelligencers, and out of ſeveral manuſcripts in the cuſtodie of Sr *John Cook*, when hee was Secretarie to the late King; and ſince the Parlament, *I* have got what I could by induſtrie, from Merchants and others, both at home and abroad, at my great expence, to make mee ſerviceable to my Countrie, in ſtudying the individual proſperitie of every man, that is a true lover of this Common-wealth.

Sir! Hee that travail's far in a Winter's daie, had need to bee up before Sun-riſing. And ſuch honorable Members as your ſelf, ſhall and have no doubt found the affairs of the Common-wealth, left ſtrangely intangled, the 20. of *April* 1653. The great God of Heaven direct you to ſet all ſtrait in the Common-wealth; and that

you may amend what you found amiss, to the comfort of this Nation, and to you, and your posterities, everlasting honor, whereby this Common-wealth may bless God for you, and other worthie Members of Parlament, and Armie.

SIR! There is a Rule in the State of *Venice*, when their Embassadors com home, the Senate there requireth them to give an account, of the negotiations in Forreign parts, and to declare the conditions, manners, fashions and powerfull parties and factions in those Kingdoms or Common-wealths from whence they return.

An Embassador of *Venice* returning from *England*, in the late King *Charles's* time, was, according to custom, to give his usual account in the Senate; hee, after a long Oration of the power of the Spanish, Italian, French, Dutch, and Scotch-interest in the Court of *England*, their several influences on all the actions of the late King, and his Counsel, was required to give an account of the power and interests the English Natives had themselvs in their own Counsels; to which the Embassador replied, That the Natives themselvs had little or no power in the Court of *England*; *for though the King's Privie Council had all English bodies, yet they had Spanish, French, Dutch, and Scotch hearts, and many of them Forreign Prince's Pensioners*; and the true lovers of their Countrie, the Natives of *England*, had little power in their own Counsels; the late King having a resolution to cast off all Parlaments, and to rule by his own Prerogative.

The sad effects of those Counsels, and thir miscarriages, brought the late great miseries and Wars on this Nation.

May it pleas you Sir! I would to God som men could not justly say the like, during som time of the late Parlament: many of their Counsellors and Members in the begining of the late Parlament speaking all

all perfit Scotch and Presbyterie; and afterwards som of their late Counsellors perfect Spanish, Dutch and French. SIR! I say I have found this a sad truth, ten thousand pounds deep and better, to my particular estate.

SIR! let mee most humbly entreat you to bee instrumental, with all the worthie Members of this present Parlament, to remember they are English, and to act upon true English principles, esteeming the good of the Nation above all private respects; and their faith and word once past, is ever to bee kept, either with particular men or States.

There was many Noble Gentlemen of the last Parlament labored it, and studied to bring it about; but they were over-powred by several parties, and divisions even amongst themselvs; if there bee any that hinder this good work in your Counsels, I pray God to discover him, and to amend and convert him or bring him to Justice.

That which I most humbly desire, is, for every man perfectly and freely (with due reverence I humbly say it to the Supreme Autoritie) to speak his Countrie's language, perfect English in all their words and actions; to bee publick spirited men; that is, to studie the just peace, wealth, prosperitie and happiness of every individual member of this Nation; and that they studie the restoring of Trade, the erecting of Manufactures, the setting all the poor on work, to the relieving the aged and impotent, even such as have been struck by God's hand, or for their Countrie's defence.

My most earnest suit to you, is, above all earthly things, diligently to prepare Ships, men, and materials for to defend your Dominion of the Seas of this Common wealth; for without this, you, nor any one member in this Nation, can call any thing their

own, longer then it ſhall bee lent them by the courteſies of our neighbor-Nation.

And what favor upon their prevailing can bee exſpected by us fromthem, their former courteſies in the Eaſt-Indies, and their late actions apparently declare to every true Engliſh heart.

Upon honorable and juſt conditions, for the good of both Nations, God in his good time I hope and pray for, that hee will finde a way to ſave his ſervant Iſaac, *that is, both* Engliſh *and* Dutch; *and catch the* Ram *in the Buſh, I mean the* Jeſuits *that lately kindled this fire, and to this daie blow the coles between both Nations.*

Noble SIR! I have in this *Narrative*, ſhewed you a Watch in pieces, and ſom of the Wheels and Springs that make's the motion, or elſ a Carpenter's Rule, the inches and Mathematical lines. Yet noble Sir! I humbly tell you, the ſhewing a man a Rule and a Watch, doth not enable him, without long ſtudie, tools and materials, to make a Watch, or a Rule.

I humbly ſaie, I had rather bee a Carpenter by daily practice to know how to build a houſ, then a Mathematitian by Theorick, which can talk of an hundred things in framing an houſ; but give him a Mallet, Saw and Square, hee know's not how to handle one of them.

So it is not the Theorick, but the Practick part that can do this ſervice which I have don for the Commonwealth. Sir! *I* humbly ſaie, there muſt bee Men read, as well as books; and many years ſtudie to do this ſervice.

SIR! I deliver not this paper to erect Offices and Imployments upon the recommendations of friends, for any in Power, to make ſuch uſe of theſe my humble Propoſals, as ſom of the late Parlament have don. *viz.* To put into great places of truſt, and skill, ignorant and unskilful men, or Rooks; as many of your Treaſurers and other Officers have been; that, by indirect waies, have

have cram'd their purſes, and bought incredible vaſt poſſeſsions.

Their monies and lands they now have, belong's truly to the Common-wealth, and every particular member in this Nation, have been abuſed by their indirect waies.

For in the late Parlament and late Council of State, many things were propounded of excellent uſe for the Common-wealth, both by my ſelf and others; but ſeldom any thing took in any other mould, then that ſuch, and ſuch Members, their brethren, kindred, or favorites, muſt have the management of all the Publick Treaſuries, Cuſtoms and Exciſe, Prize-goods, Mint-affairs, and all other places of profit.

And juſtly *I* conceiv they ought to have the preheminence, provided every one of their attempts had been juſt, their allowances moderate, and their whole tranſactions fairly and truly carried, without fraude.

Noble Sir, it will upon ſtrict examination bee found for theſe many years, ſeveral publick Officers have not duely accounted for their Receipts of monie, to the Common-wealth, by which abuſes of not calling the Treaſurers, or Committee-men to a ſtrict account yearly, or oftener, according to the former cuſtoms in the Exchequer. The Common-wealth hath in their Officers hands at this daie remaining, Millions of monie; which is as due to them, as a man's rent is due when a Tennant enjoy's his Land-lord's lands; and had all the accounts of the Common-wealth, been kept in a Regular waie, the publick debts might have been far better paid, and the Common-wealth have kept their Lands intire, which hath been ſold at an under-value above a Million of monie, for Rents of Lands that yearly might have been paid this Republick, to the World's end, had ſom Members and Treaſurers of the late Parlament been juſt.

SIR! This Nation may bee compared to the poor

man in the *Goſpel*, that fell amongſt a partie of Theivs, who have wounded us ſeveral waies ; theſe Theivs are ſom of the late Members of Parlament, ſom Treaſurers, Committee-men and ſeveral other Officers of the Publick ; ſom of them hath ſerved the Commonwealth, as many lewd people do at great fires in Cities, pretend they com to carrie away the goods that they ſhould bee kept from the fire, and for the uſe of the owners, and by all outward appearance in their words, expreſs themſelvs to bee very inſtrumental to ſquench the fire, when originally in their hearts and actions they blow the coles, and com onely to pelfer and proline the monie, plate, linnen and goods they can laie their hands on. And the poor owners in ſuch times of fright, delivering his or their goods to any that will hand them from the fire ; many a mercileſs Theif, inſtead of keeping this monie, plate and goods, ſafe for the diſtreſſed and afflicted owner, carrie's it directly home to his own houſ, and there felenouſly keep's it for his private uſe, and ſo add's affliction to affliction ; when the poor and diſtreſſed man, know's hee was careful to keep his plate, his monie and ſom goods from the fire, but hath had the ill luck to deliver it into ſuch hands that have rob'd him; who pretended, during the fire, to bee friends, but after proved Theivs.

SIR! I humbly referr it to you, ſhould ſuch a Theif, com afore you, whether you would not think it to little to make the Theif reſtore to the true owner, the partie that had a great loſs by fire, his own proper goods, ſo unduly and felenouſly detained, and if upon refuſal and denial, and juſt and due proof by good witneſs, or taking the goods in the Theivs cuſtodie, whether you ought not in Juſtice to ſend ſuch Theivs to a houſ of Correction, or trie them by a Jurie and hang them.

SIR! Let mee entreat you for God's ſake conſider, you having the power of this Nation now in your hands, whether you can anſwer it to God, your own conſcience

conſcience, or this abuſed Nation, for whom you ſerv, now I have with all humilitie, humbly made you acquainted with it, if you and other worthie Members of Parlament do not do the Common-wealth right in this particular ; I humbly ſaie, it is the praiers and exſpectations of thouſands to have this ſtrictly called to account.

Sir! I humbly preſent you not with one Theif, but with hundreds of Theivs, not pilfering Theivs that ſteal's for neceſsitie to fill their bellies, but mightie Theivs, ſuch as have ſwallowed of the Com non-wealth's Treaſure, ſom of them one hundred thouſand pounds a man ; theſe Theivs, lurk not in barns, allies, thatch'd houſes or blinde places, but in Palaces and Lord-ſhips, which they have fraudently gotten ; and almoſt every Pariſh in this Nation, hath one of the brood of theſe Caterpillers.

SIR! my moſt humble ſuite to you is, to remember the time of this Parlament is ſet, the daies weeks and months run quickly about, many that have cap't and crouched to ſeveral of the late Parlament men, when they were in power ; now Sir, they ſlite and ſcorn ſeveral of them, for abuſing their truſt ; for God's ſake avoid that Rock which deſtroied ſeveral of them, which was ſelf-ſeeking and covetuouſneſs, and feeding men's expectation with vain delaies ; at laſt the tears of the poor and oppreſſed aſcended to heaven, and God in his good time will call to account, ſuch as while they had a hand of beeing the Common-wealth's nurſing Fathers, have almoſt ſtarved the Childe ; Sir! when this Common-wealth hath caled for bread, ſom of them hath given it a Stone ; when this Common-wealth hath been a thirſt, ſom of them hath given it Vinigar and Gall in ſtead of wine to refreſh them ; many of them beeing men of no conſcience, no faith, promiſs-breakers and ſelf-ſeekers.

I humbly leav this to your conſideration, whether theſe Gripers, the Treaſurers, Committees, and others of

of the Common-wealth's ſpunges, ought not to bee made reſtore what they have unjuſtly deteined, and bee ſqueezed; to cut ſom of theſe men in pieces and make them Hawk's-meat, they will bee as acceptable a ſacrifice as *Emſon* and *Dudley* was in *Henry* the Eighth's time.

Let but the State paie mee my monie out of the Silver I cauſed to bee ſtaied, which is now coining in the Tower; which the late Council of State promiſed mee, amounting to the ſumme of *Eleven thouſand pounds*, I will finde waies to bring into this Parlament diverſ *hundred thouſand pounds*, which will bee acceptable to all the good people of this Nation, and ſave them taxes; and if theſe Treaſurers and Committee-men bee angry when they ſee what I propound, I ſhall value their anger no more then I do ſom Merchants, and ſom others that are mad at mee for ſtaying the Dutch Prize-ſilver; Sir! I had not common reaſon, if *I* did not ſee and know ſom men have and will leav no ſtone unturn'd to do mee a miſchief for this my affection and faithfulneſs to this Nation in ſtaying the Silver.

But if my ſervice bee duely reſpected by ſuch worthie perſons as your ſelf, who is qualified and impowred to do mee right; it ſhall encourage mee to proceed in this ſervice, for the benefit of this Common-wealth. Thus with the tender of my ſervice and due reſpects, *I* remain,

Your humble ſervant

Thomas Violet.

FINIS.

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In the Ship Peter *ſo much monie claimed by the Merchants, that there is not half the ſilver found as is claimed.* p. 86.

Tho. Violet *attended the Lord chief Juſtice Rolles about this buſineſs, bee beeing then Lord Preſident of the Council; who upon peruſal of his Papers did greatly commend* Tho. Violet *for his care of the ſafety of this Common-wealth, and the* 13 Jan. 1653, *his Lordſhip preſented the many ſervices I had don the Common-wealth, to the Council of State in ſtaying the Prize-ſilver,* p.86.

Mr Hill *and* Mr Wilſon, *two of the Commiſſioners of Prize-goods, told mee, they were Merchants, and had their eſtates in* Spain, *and would appear no further, without*

without they could get an Act of Parlament to indemnifie them p 89, *so that had I not put in my Protest, tho Common-wealth had lost all the Prizes and Silver,* p.89.

My Letter and Postscript to Mr David Bud, 24 Dec. 1652, *wherein I earnestly press him not to betraie his Trust; and that if bee did not mend for the future, I would present him and his actions to the judgment of the Parlament; who, if they had not been dissolved as they were, would have made* Mr Bud, *and som others in the Admiraltie, examples: this Parlament, I hope, will call them to a strict account; for it concern's the safety of the Nation, to watch well the actions of som in the Admiraltie,* p.90,91.

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Order of the Council of State for to consider of the waies to set the mint on work, and to take som cours for the hindering the Transporting Gold and Silver, p.161.

The Propositions of Tho. Violet *to the Committee for the Mint, and removing of abuses practised on the Coin and Bullion of the Nation,* p.162,163,164 195,166,167,168.

Another Proposition of Tho. Violet *for setting the Mint on work, and saving the State fifteen hundred pounds a year, of what they have allowed the Master-Worker of the Mint on his accounts; ordered by the Committee to bee reported to the Council of State,* p.169, *to* 172.

Several orders of the Committee of the Mint about a Trial with Peter Blondeau *the Frenchman,* p.173,174,175, 176.

An Order of the Committee of the Mint, to have the Transporters of Gold or Silver, and all unlawful buying and selling Gold or Silver, or Culling and Melting down the Current Silver, excepted out of the General Pardon, 24 Jan. 1652, p.173.

Tho. Violet's *brief observations of what hath been Acted at the late* Council of Trade, *from the* 20 Aug. 1650, *to the last of* December 1651, *viz.* p. 177, 178,179,180.

I desire you to take notice, that *I* beeing surprised in time, for the sorting of my Papers, and using several Printers for the Expedition, som of my Papers have been misplaced and twice printed, through the neglect of those *I* intrusted in this business, which *I* hope will bee no trouble to the judicious that read's them. Also *I* desire, what literal faults they read, may bee amended by their Pens; which shall oblige mee, if God send mee health, and as *I* see this well taken, to present to your Honors a further addition, in this nature, for the service of this Nation.

FINIS.